ADJOURNMENT MOTION.

PRESIDENT : I have received notice of an adjournment motion. It reads thus :—

> "I wish to move the adjournment of the business of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance namely, the nomination to the State Council of a member belonging to the Roman Syrian Community in the place of a Latin Catholic vacating the seat in the said Chamber."

I have to decide whether this motion is in order. In the first place, I think that, under Section 17 (*d*) of the Regulation, the subject which it is sought to discuss on the floor of the House has been excluded from the purview of the Assembly. There are rules framed under the Reforms Regulation and therefore no discussion on any matter covered by these rules is permissible. Moreover, I think this adjournment motion cannot be regarded as coming within the four corners of Section 47 in that I fail to see that the motion fulfils two vital conditions. The first condition is that the matter should be urgent. It has lost its urgency in that the nomination has already been made. In the second place, it ought to be a matter of public importance. I am not quite sure whether the consideration of the relative claims of two sub-communities of a community can be regarded as a matter of public importance or public interest. For these reasons, I rule the motion out of order.

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET—(*contd.*)

PRESIDENT : The House will now proceed with the general discussion of the budget.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur cum Pattanapuram*) : Sir, at the very outset, I have to bring to the notice of Government that the time allowed for discussion of the Budget and for voting on demands for grants in the Assembly is very inadequate. The two days allotted for the general discussion of the budget and the seven days for demands for grants were allotted under the old Legislative Council Regulation under which there were only 35 non-official members in the Council. Now, Sir, in the reformed Assembly there are 62 non-official members and therefore the time allotted is very too short and it does not give the members sufficient opportunity either to discuss the budget generally or to disscuss the policy of the different departments of Governments when the time for the demand for grant arises. I would therefore request the President to see that longer time is allotted for these items of work in the Assembly.

Now, coming to the budget itself, Sir, I am not inclined either to congratulate the Financial Secretary or to denounce him. He has produced his usual Budget adjusting the expenditure to the revenue so that the net result might be a surplus. He has shown neither any particular skill nor has he committed any particular folly in framing the budget. However he has concluded his speech with the remark that the financial condition of the State is unquestionably sound. This statement of his has been challenged by certain members in this Council very successfully and I agree with those members. But whether his hope of

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the transactions of the year ultimately results in a surplus or not, it is no matter for him or for the Government because there are sufficient funds in the hands of Government, such as the accumulated surplus of over a crore of rupees. The Railway Sinking Fund which has been released, the Savings Bank deposits, the windfalls and so on, will enable the Government to carry on if they should end in a deficit. But what we have to consider, Sir, is what has been the reaction of this undoubted soundness of the finances of the State upon the people and upon their prosperity. There is no provision in the budget for any relief to the hard-pressed taxpayer, no scheme of agricultural debt redemption, no programme of rural reconstruction or any additional allotment for social services. Now, the Financial Secretary has been good enough in his speech to recognise the existence, at any rate, of the economic depression which according to him has been unprecedented alike in its extent and in its intensity which still persists and the prices of agricultural produce remain low. Now what we have to see, Sir, is whether the prices of our commodities remain low or have fallen entirely on account of the economic depression alone. Had the economic depression been the cause of the fall in prices, it is a world condition and Travancore alone cannot remedy it. It appears to me, Sir, that this is not so and in certain cases at least this fall in prices is due to remediable causes and the remedy is in the hands of the Government. But I am sorry to say that the Government have not been able to come to the help of the ryots. Take, for instance, the fall in the price of copra. The fall in the market value of copra has been phenomenal. The price of copra has fallen from Rs. 137¼ per candy in the year 1923 to Rs. 36 in the year 1934; *i. e.*, a fall of about 75 per cent. Now, Sir, it appears to me that this fall is not due to the economic depression, but to the tariff policy of the British Government.

The tariff policy of the British Government has injured our copra trade in two ways. There was no duty on copra imported into India from foreign countries. First they introduced import duty on copra, the result of which was to destroy our markets in foreign countries. By the introduction of this import duty, the price of copra went up in the Indian market and therefore naturally the Travancore producers sold their produce in India and they had nothing to send to foreign markets. Till 1926 when the import duty was introduced we were exporting large quantities of copra to foreign and European countries. In that year we exported 5,000 candies of copra to foreign countries. This was completely stopped and our market was confined to India alone. Had that policy continued, Sir, there would have been no difficulty at all. But subsequently owing to pressure from outside, the India Government thought it necessary to reduce the tariff duty. The tariff duty in 1929 was Rs. 23. In 1930 it was reduced to Rs. 17, in 1931 to Rs. 16; in 1932 to Rs. 11½ and in 1933 to Rs. 10. Again on cocoanut oil the tariff value in 1929 was Rs. 30, in 1930 it was reduced to Rs. 26; in 1931 to Rs. 21; in 1932 to Rs. 16; and in 1934 to Rs. 15½. The result of this reduction in the tariff value, you will find, was the increase in the import of Ceylon copra into India.

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In 1930, Sir, 1,361 cwts. of copra were alone imported into India. In 1931, it rose to 22,000 cwts; in 1932 to 29,2508; and in 1933 the mport of Ceylon copra into India was 483,000.

Coming to oil, in 1930 it was 73,759 cwts; in 1931 it rose to 188,000; in 1932 to 511,000; and in 1933 to 350,000.

And again the cocoanuts imported from Ceylon to India was in 1930, 19,000 and in 1933, 3,700,000 cocoanuts. From this, Sir, you will find that the tariff policy of the British Government has enabled the Ceylon planter to dump his cocoanuts in India and thereby to turn the Malabar planter out of the market. From these figures, one can see that the fall in the price of copra and oil was not due to the present economic depression but to foreign competition resulting from the change of the tariff policy of the British Government. Now this is a matter upon which the Travancore Government must be able to come to the rescue of the cocoanut planter. But, Sir, I am very sorry to say that for some reason or other the Travancore Government have not been able so far to help their subjects.

You Sir, in your speech at the Alleppey Chamber of Commerce, said this helplessness is due to the fact mainly that the seat of the British Government is far removed from Travancore. This is what you said:

> "You perhaps are aware that the Travancore Government has made a case to secure the sympathy—I cannot use a better word—of the Government of India and to induce them to come to our help at this critical stage. The only information that I can convey to you at the present moment is that the Government of India have not done anything as yet in the matter. Well, that may be perfectly understandable. They are perhaps now obsessed by more important considerations.
>
> And it is equally possible that situated as we are at the southernmost corner of the Indian Empire and removed far away from the seat of the throne, our cry does not reach them, at any rate not audibly enough."

Now Sir, we must find out some means whereby, in spite of the distance, we can make our cry heard at the seat of the Government of India and see that the tariff policy of the British Government is so changed as to disable the Ceylon cocoanut planter from competing successfully with the Malabar and Travancore planter and thereby reducing the price of our cocoanut produce. It is however a matter of consolation to us to know that this circumstance does not discourage you and you are pressing our case for the very speedy and very satisfactory solution of this problem in co-operation with the Government of India. May your efforts be unrelenting and may those efforts be crowned with success so that the eternal gratitude of the Travancore planter be yours.

Another matter which I would refer to, Sir, is the position of the rubber industry. The Financial Secretary has said that the prices of minor produce like tea and rubber have gone up. Sir, so far as tea is concerned, whether its price goes up or down, it does not affect

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the Travancore planter; the tea industry is entirely in the hands of the European planters excepting perhaps one or two rich Travancore planters. But that is not the case with the rubber industry. The rubber industry is mainly in the hands of Travancore planters; and if, as a matter of fact, the price of rubber increases, the Travancore ryots will be very materially benefited by it. According to a moderate estimate, if the price of rubber stands at 5 As. per pound, the amount of money that would come into Travancore will be about Rs. 68 lakhs even if the output is 200 pounds per acre. If all that money came to Travancore, it will increase the purchasing power of the ryots and the money will be circulating in the country. But, Sir, this glimpse of hope has been blasted, by whose fault I cannot say, in this economic depression on account of the inadequacy of the quota allotted to South India under the rubber restriction scheme. Of course I am glad to note from the Chief Secretary's answers to questions put on the floor of this House that the Government are trying to accurately ascertain the area of rubber plantations and to see that the quota is revised. We are thankful for this small mercy though belated. Had these steps been taken at the proper time, the catastrophe could have been avoided.

I would like to point out some circumstances which would clearly show, without any investigation, that *prima facie* the export quota allowed, by the International Committee, to South India is absolutely inadequate. Now take the statistics of the area of the land under rubber given in Government publications such as the Administration Report. The figures given in the Administration Reports, in regard to the area under rubber cultivation in Travancore, are entirely unreliable. A perusal of the figures for the period from 1104 to 1108, recent years, reminds one of the fever chart. In 1104, the area under rubber cultivation, according to our Administration Report was 56,564 acres. It rose in 1105 to 61,896 acres. Then in 1106, it fell to 60,428. Then it suddenly rises, in 1107, to 64,113; and then again suddenly drops down to 59,632. Sir, the area under rubber cultivation, certainly, cannot vary like the temperature of a fever patient. When such serious disparity occurs in the figures published by Government, officers should have taken pains to ascertain the reasons for the variation. I am sorry I have no time just now, on account of the time-limit fixed, to deal at length with this question. My submission is that, as a matter of fact, in the whole of South India, every year, new plantations *are* going on and the area under rubber was continually rising and not fluctuating. Really, there has not been any cutting down of rubber plantations. Some areas might have been neglected, but they can be easily brought back into tapping condition by merely clearing the undergrowth. Therefore, there seems to be no reason for the very serious fluctuation in the area under rubber cultivation, as we find in the Administration reports of the Travancore Government. It shows the exceedingly careless manner in which statistics are being compiled. If the quota was determined on the basis of the figures

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furnished by Government from the Administration Report,—and there is no doubt it has been—as the Chief Secretary has not told us that any independent enquiry was made. The quota must necessarily be inadequate.

PRESIDENT: Will the honourable member finish soon?

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur* cum *Pattanapuram*): Yes, Sir.

In Ceylon, about 4,00,000 acres are under rubber cultivation, and they have been assigned a quota of 75,000 tons. At this rate, we should have got, on the basis of the Government figures themselves, at least double the quota now assigned for South India which is only 6,850 tons. Again Sir, the basic quota allowed for Burma-5,510 tons rises to 9,000 tons in 1937 and to 9,500 tons in 1938. *i. e.* by about 40 per cent. On the other hand, the basic quota for South India which is 6,850, also rises only to the same figures in 1937 and 1938 *i. e.*, 16 per cent. This shows how badly we have been treated in comparison with other countries. What is the cause of this? Let the Government answer. Even if we take into account the average exports in 1929 and 1930, we would find that the quota allotted to Travancore is very very small. Let us take, for instance, the year 1928. In that year, 26,38,000 pounds of rubber were exported from South India. That comes to 7,247 tons and this excludes the 1,300 tons of rubber exported through the Alleppey port. The total, therefore, comes to about 9,000 tons. But it is said they took the average for three years during two of which there was no tapping in Travancore on account of the slump in prices. That is very unfair to Travancore.

These *prima facie* show that the quota allotted to South India is very very small. The provisional license to export rubber now granted by the licensing committee has allowed only 21 per cent. of the basic quota for 7 months of the year 1934, whereas, in Ceylon it is said that they have been able to get license for the export of 82 to 87 per cent. I bring these facts to the notice of Government, because I suspect that there is some impression in the minds of some of the officers that there is no need to get the quota revised. I fear that is on such wrong information furnished by some of our officers to the International Committee that the present quota has been fixed. That is why I stress this point so much just to make it clear that, even with the materials now available, it is quite possible to prove that Travancore has been very unfairly treated by the International Committee on rubber restriction.

Is my time over, Sir?

PRESIDENT: You have exceeded your time by five minutes.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur* cum *Pattanapuram*): I am sorry, Sir; though I have to touch upon some more points, I shall stop here.

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MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamthitta*): The Financial Secretary has assured us that our financial position is perfectly sound. I do not know, Sir, whether, when he made that statement, he took into account the steady deterioration of the Government account balance. A glance at the comparative tables of our assets and liabilities, and of our revenues and expenditure, will convince anybody that none can feel that easy satisfaction which the Financial Secretary experiences now. Because, such important sources of revenue as Forests, Income-tax, Registration and Land Revenue are showing unmistakable signs of decline. I shall give some figures. In 1104 the receipts under Land Revenue amounted to Rs. 41·76 lakhs, whereas it is estimated to be only Rs. 36·75 lakhs for 1110. Under Forests, the revenue was Rs. 16·04 in 1104, whereas, for 1110, it is estimated at Rs. 12 2 lakhs. Similarly, under Income-tax, in 1104, we got Rs. 6·95 lakhs, whereas, in 1110, the estimate is only Rs. 4·5 lakhs. The fall is even keener under Excise, for, whereas we get Rs. 61·42 lakhs in 1104, the estimate for 1110 is only Rs 48·5 lakhs. And, the increases anticipated under Customs and Salt do not seem to make up for the fall under these heads. Our surplus investments also do not yield adequate returns to make up for the fall under these heads.

The main defect is lack of a comprehensive policy of a definite character ensuring financial stability. There is no proper husbanding of the resources of the country. Government have not been able to do anything to improve the earning capacity of the average citizen nor to keep under effective check the rapid and steady growth of unemployment, both among the educated and the uneducated classes. Unlike private firms which are concerned only with the mere calculation of profit and loss, Government ought to have, in view for their paramount consideration, the ultimate well-being of the governed. I wonder whether the Financial Secretary has borne in mind that point of view, when he assured us that all was well with us. Certainly, he would have got some credit for precision in striking balances if he had been serving some large factory or big firm as a clerk or an accountant. But now he is a responsible officer of Government, whose functions are quite different from those of a factory. Sir, is it not a cruel joke indulged in by such a responsible officer as the Financial Secretary, when he says that the financial condition of the Travancore Government is perfectly sound, at a time when there are not even a few dozens, beyond the pale of officialdom here in Travancore, who can show a balanced budget, who can atleast make both ends meet? Among the 51 lakhs of people in Travancore, we cannot now pick out even one dozen who can say that their financial position is all right.

The sights we see around us do not permit us to say that every pie spent by Government goes to enhance the general welfare of the governed. Several very useful suggestions were, on many occasions, put forward by this House and other responsible bodies for consideration by Government. For intance the necessity for mobilising the resources and energies of Development Departments under a standing committee with

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the Dewan as President was brought to the notice of the Government by a responsible committee. At present, the activities of the Departments of Industries, Co-operation, Agriculture and Forests are being carried on in a haphazard fashion, no effort being made to co-ordinate their activities for the well-being of the people. But nothing has been done in that direction. The urgent necessity to improve shipping facilities at our ports, to prevent vessels from preferring other ports to ours, was pressed upon the attention of Government repeatedly, but in vain. Again realising that about Rs. 65 lakhs' worth of tobacco is being consumed in Travancore annually, it was suggested that the cultivation of tobacco here might be permitted and encouraged. It has been found out that tobacco can be successfully grown here.

Nothing has been done in respect of this suggestion. Sir, as was very effectively and patriotically stated by Mr. Padmanabha Menon yesterday, every agency, provided by Government for ensuring the people peace and happiness, converts itself into engines of oppression. Sir, this is not a secret ; everbody knows it. The high salaried Heads of Departments and other officers justify their existence only by proving themselves unfit to discharge their legitimate duty in the right manner. I will quote one example. An additional expenditure of Rs. 11,270 per year is being incurred on account of the present Police Commissioner. This is the amount we were asked to pay the present Police Commissioner over the amount we were giving his predecessor. But what is the result? The tone of the department, certainly, has not improved. If at all anything has taken place, the subordinates of the department have now a greater sense of security that they can do anything with immunity.

The Department of Industries also does not seem to be doing anything useful in spite of an army of experts, assistant experts and sub-assistant experts. I would challenge any Government member here to justify the con tinued existence of that department even with the recent appendages of sales depots, encouragement to minor industries, the appointment of a Trade Agent and his activities in the city of Bombay. Certainly, I would value more the statements made in the Census Report of 1931 regarding the decline of our industries and the backwardness of Travancore in respect of them than the eulogistic outburst of Sir Purushothamdas who opened the Travancore Sales Depot at Bombay. To corroborate this native testimony, I will put into the witness box Mr. I. C. Chacko himself who had been the Head of the department for a long time. His own statement, in the shape of a final message delivered by him in the Administration Report for the year 1106, is that this department has achieved nothing and could achieve nothing.

The Public Works Department, I will take next. It is a very gratifying sight to see that, even during the current year, a comparatively large amount was spent upon communications; but I am yet to

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know—anybody on this side of the House is yet to know—whom that liberality has benefited. Certainly the intensity of the popular cry from various centres of Travancore has not lessened a bit, even in spite of the increased allotment under communications.

As regards the Forest Department, it is a pointed criticism, Sir, time and again made on the floor of this House, that the Forest Department is disposing of timbers in large quantities at cheaper rates so as to keep undiminished the revenue that the Department was getting from its transactions year by year. That is a criticism that has not been answered adequately.

To continue in a general way, here the creations and abolitions of posts are matters of every-day occurrence. One office on a very high salary which was found absolutely essential for the conduct of affairs of a particular department today is found superfluous the next day.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know from the member his opinion as to the Department of Education?

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): This is the way in which the Government carry on their transactions year by year, and yet the Financial Secretary says that our financial position is sound. I would remind him that any Government can boast of financial soundness only if that Government can conscientiously assert that every pie that is spent by them goes ultimately to the definite advantage of the people at large.

With all this, the budget before us contains certain very progressive features. It is a welcome news that the Government are opening a rubber factory in South Travancore. In regard to the proposal to start a paper mill in North Travancore, I have my own doubt whether Government are serious in their intentions. If they had been serious, they would have tried to help or own the Punalur Paper Mills, the chief complaint of the manager of which is that they are getting patronage not from the Travancoee Government, which still evinces a partiality for foreign paper, but from Mysore and other States. Anyway, that is a step which marks an era in the practical administration of the State.

To come to other progressive features of the budget, we find that there is the reduction of interest on loans issued by the Land Mortgage Bank; again the abolition of the places of the two Deputy Darbar Physicians. In regard to the latter, I have a word to say. We cannot confidently congratulate the Government on that because we do not know when these two apparitions would re-appear. Anyway, for the present, the Government deserve our congratulations.

Above all comes tha institution of the Irrigation Fund about which also I have just one word to put in. Unfortunately in Travancore, Sir, theory and practice differ. Even when minor irrigation works were being carried on, I have seen instances where agriculturists used to complain that the Irrigation Officers used to place obstacles in their way. Therefore, these Irrigation Officers may be profitably and

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usefully instructed to consult the leading agriculturists of the centres of their operations before they put into execution the schemes or works conceived by them.

I would just refer the House, before I conclude, to what the Dewan said in the course of his speech to the journalists of the State, so that the apprehensions entertained by some members of this House may be removed. The Dewan said—

"Within my four months' experience I have been thinking seriously about various important problems which, if only I have got the time and the help, I hope to investigate and tackle; and let me assure you that the moment these questions are tackled they will add to the prosperity and the happiness of the people at large."

This is a very significant expression coming from the highest officer in the State. Continuing the Dewan asks for the help and the co-operation of the non-officials in general. Through his speech, though it was intended primarily for the journalists of this State, the Dewan asked for the co operation of the leaders of non-officials here in his endeavours to enhance the prosperity of the State. Certainly with very great pleasure we do extend the hand of co-operation and help in a spirit of reverential gratitude. We would request the Dewan against being too much worried by petty squabbles and controversies either in the press or on the platform but to concentrate his attention upon general problems beneficial to the State. (Mr. K. R. Elenkath: *Hear, hear.*) Certainly, Sir, we are not asking the Dewan to pass over in silence the derelictions of the press. We would be one with the Dewan in trying to arrest the development of circumstances unfavourable to the growth of concord and goodwill amongst the subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja. But the press also has got its grievances. It is said that they are making very useful suggestions and that they are rendering very useful services to the State; but they are not brought to the notice of the Dewan by those who are responsible for doing so. We would again request the Dewan not to concern himself with these small and inconsequential things but to devote his attention to questions of a general character taking into confidence the leaders of non-officials, treating them with some respect and accepting their recommendations or suggestions as far as possible and so far as it lies in the power of the Government. In this connection, Sir, I would reiterate what Mr. Padmanabha Menon said yesterday. The Travancore official is, to speak the truth, not of the best type. I am not making a sweeping remark. There are honourable exceptions; but still a majority of officials are those who cannot see beyond their nose and who are constitutionally unable to take a broader, a more democratic and a more tolerant view of affairs. They are unfortunately moving closer with the Dewan and they may advise him not to treat us with the respect that is our due. Anyway, here we are, Sir, the non-officials, the members on this side of the House, to help you and to co-operate with you in the endeavours to which reference has been made by you so that the greater prosperity of the State may be ensured.

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MR. T. S. JAYANTAN NOMBOOTIRI (*Travancore Jenmies, North*) :

സർ, ഫ ഫ ഫ ഠ-ലെ ബഡ്ഡറിനെ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് ഫൈനാൻഷ്യൽ സിക്രട്ടറി ചെയ്ത പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ തിരുവിതാംക്കൂറിലെ അട്ടത്തകൊല്ലത്തെ സാമ്പത്തികനില സുരക്ഷിതവും തൃപ്തികരവുമാണെന്ന് പ്രസ്താവിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ആ പ്രസ്താവന അടിസ്ഥാനരഹിതമായ തൊണെന്ന് ആരും അനുമാനിക്കാവുന്നതാണ്. സുരക്ഷിതവും തൃപ്തികരവുമായ ഒരു സാമ്പത്തികനില ഉണ്ടെന്ന് പ്രതീക്ഷിക്കുന്നതു് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം ശരിയായിരിക്കാം. എന്നാൽ സാധാരണ ജനങ്ങൾ സാമ്പത്തികമായി വളരെ കഷ്ടതകളും ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകളും അനുഭവിക്കുന്നു എന്നുള്ള സംഗതി ഇന്നും ഇന്നലെയും ഇവിടെ നടന്ന പ്രസംഗങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നു വെളിവാകുന്നതാണ്. ആ സ്ഥിതിക്ക്, സാധാരണജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ശരിയായ രക്ഷാമാർഗ്ഗം നൽകുന്നതിനു ഗവണ്മെൻറ് വേണ്ടവിധത്തിൽ പ്രവർത്തിക്കേണ്ടതിനു പകരം പുതിയപുതിയ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ സൃഷ്ടിച്ച് അനാവശ്യമായി ഗവണ്മെൻറുഭണ്ഡാഗാരത്തെ ശോഷിപ്പിച്ചുവരുന്നതു ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ അക്ഷന്തവ്യമായ ഒരു അപരാധമായി കരുതാതെ നിവർത്തിയില്ല. സാധാരണജനങ്ങൾക്കു വേണ്ട സഹായസഹകരണങ്ങൾ ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കേണ്ടതു് ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ കടമയാണ്. അതിനാൽ അക്കാര്യത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ദയാദൃഷ്ടി പതിയണമെന്നാണ് എനിക്കാദ്യമായി പറയുവാനുള്ളതു്.

ഉൾനാടുകളിലെ ഗതാഗതസൌകര്യത്തെപ്പറ്റിയാണ് എനിക്കു പിന്നീടു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു്. രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ പ്രധാനപട്ടണങ്ങളിൽ താമസിക്കുന്ന ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും വേണ്ടവിധത്തിലുള്ള സുഖസൌകര്യാദികൾ ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കുന്നതിൽ എനിക്കു അസൂയ ഇല്ല. എന്നാൽ നാട്ടിൻപുറങ്ങളിലെ ഗതാഗതസൌകര്യങ്ങൾ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കണമെന്ന് ജനപ്രതിനിധികൾ പറയുമ്പോൾ 'want of funds' 'economic depression' എന്നിങ്ങനെയുള്ള ആസുരശബ്ദങ്ങളാണ് ഗവണ്മെൻറുഭാഗത്തുനിന്നും പുറപ്പെടുവിച്ചു കാണാറുള്ളതു്. ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ സാമ്പത്തികനിലയെ സുരക്ഷിതമാക്കുന്നതിന് ഗവണ്മെൻറു യാതൊന്നും ചെയ്യാതിരിക്കുന്നതു് വളരെ കഷ്ടമാണെന്നു മാത്രമേ ഞാൻ അതിനെപ്പറ്റി പറയുന്നുള്ളൂ. നാട്ടിൻപുറങ്ങളിൽ താമസിക്കുന്ന ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഗതാഗതസൌകര്യത്തിനുവേണ്ടി ക്രൂരതൽപണം ചെലവാക്കുന്നതു്, വന്യമൃഗങ്ങളെ സംരക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനും അതിഥികളെ സ്വീകരിക്കുന്നതിനും വേണ്ടി ഭീമമായ ശമ്പളംകൊടുത്തു് പെൻഷൻ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥ

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ന്മാരെ നിയമിക്കുന്നതിനേക്കാൾ, ക്രൂടുതൽ പ്രയോജനകരമാണെന്നുള്ള സംഗതി ഏവർക്കും അറിയാവുന്നതാണ്. ഈ തരത്തിൽ പ്രാദേശികാവശ്യങ്ങൾ നിറവേറുന്നതിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറു പ്രകടിപ്പിച്ചുവരുന്ന ഉദാസീനതയെപ്പറ്റിപറഞ്ഞു് ഈ അസംബ്ലിയുടെ വിലയേറിയസമയത്തെ കളയണമെന്നു് ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ല. എങ്കിലും ഉൾനാട്ടുകാരുടെ സങ്കടങ്ങളും ആവശ്യങ്ങളും എന്താണെന്നു് അറിഞ്ഞു് വേണ്ടവിധത്തിൽ പ്രവർത്തിച്ചുവരുന്നില്ല എന്നു പറയാതെ നിവർത്തിയില്ല. മീനച്ചൽ താലൂക്കിൽ ടൌണിനടുത്തു് ഒരു പാലംപണിയിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യകതയെപ്പറ്റി പൊതുജനങ്ങളും ജനപ്രതിനിധികളും വളരെക്കാലം മുറവിളിക്കൂട്ടിയതിൻറെ ഫലമായി അതിലേക്കു് വേണ്ട പണം അനുവദിക്കുകയും പാലം പണിയിക്കുകയുംചെയ്തു. എന്നാൽ പണി പൂർത്തിയാകുംമുമ്പുതന്നെ വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കംകൊണ്ടു് ആ പാലം നശിച്ചുപോയി. അങ്ങിനെ സംഭവിച്ചിട്ടു് ഇപ്പോൾ ആറോ ഏഴോ കൊല്ലമായി എങ്കിലും അതിനെപ്പറ്റി യാതൊന്നും പ്രവർത്തിക്കാതെയാണിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഏതെങ്കിലും ഒരു സംഗതിക്കു് ബഡ്ജറിൽ പണംചേർത്താൽ അതിനെ ചെലവാക്കാതിരിക്കുകയാണു് ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ പതിവു്. ആ പതിവിനെ മാറ്റി ഇനിയെങ്കിലും ആ സംഗതിയെപ്പറ്റി ശ്രദ്ധിച്ചാൽ കൊള്ളാമെന്നു് ഞാൻ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

ജന്മി നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിലെ പ്രതിനിധിയായി വന്നിരിക്കുന്ന എനിക്കു് ജന്മിക്കരം സെറ്റിൽമെൻറിനെപ്പറ്റി രണ്ടു വാക്കു പറയാതെ നിവർത്തിയില്ല. ജന്മിക്കരം സെറ്റിൽമെൻറുജോലികൾ എത്രയും വേഗം തീർക്കണമെന്നും തത്സംബന്ധമായ കരംപിരിവു ജോലി ഗവണ്മെൻറു് ഏറ്റെടുക്കുമെന്നും ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ പ്രസ്താവനകളിൽ പ്രതിപാദിച്ചുകാണുന്നു. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ നടപടികൾ ഈ രീതിയിൽ തന്നെ തുടർന്നുപോകുന്നപക്ഷം ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽസെക്രട്ടറിയുടെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ പ്രതീക്ഷിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതുപോലെ അടുത്ത വർഷാവസാനത്തിൽ ഈ ജന്മിക്കരംജോലികൾ തീരുന്നതിനുള്ള യാതൊരു ലക്ഷണങ്ങളും കാണുന്നില്ല. ഈ കഴിഞ്ഞ ഒന്നരവർഷക്കാലത്തിനിടയ്ക്കു് ആകെയുള്ള കേസുകളിൽ മുപ്പതു് ശതമാനംപോലും തീർന്നിട്ടില്ലാത്ത സ്ഥിതിക്കു് ഇനിയുള്ള ഒരുകൊല്ലംകൊണ്ടു് മുഴുവൻകേസുകളും തീരുമെന്നു് അദ്ദേഹം പ്രതീക്ഷിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു് എന്തിനെ അടിസ്ഥാനപ്പെടുത്തിയാണെന്നു് മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല. അതിനാൽ നിശ്ചിതമായ ഒരു കാര്യപരിപാടി തയ്യാ

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റാക്കി ഓരോ താലൂക്കിലും ബാക്കിവരുന്ന കേസുകളുടെ എണ്ണം അനുസരിച്ച് കൂടുതൽ സെറിൽമെൻറ് ആഫീസറന്മാരെ നിയമിച്ച് എത്രയും വേഗത്തിൽ ഈ ജന്മിക്കരംജോലികൾ പൂർത്തിയാക്കണമെന്ന് ഞാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനോട് അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

ഈ ജന്മിക്കരംസെറിൽമെൻറിൽ ചേരിക്കൽ വസ്തുക്കളെപ്പറ്റി ചില സംഗതികൾ എനിക്കു പ്രസ്താവിക്കുവാനുണ്ട്. ചേരിക്കൽവസ്തുക്കളെ ജന്മികുടിയാൻനിയമത്തിൽ പ്രത്യേകം ഒരു വ്യവസ്ഥയിലാണ് ചേർത്തിരിക്കുന്നത്. ജന്മിയുടേയും കുടിയാൻറെയും ഉഭയസമ്മതപ്രകാരം രജിസ്റ്റർ ആക്കീട്ടുള്ള അധാരങ്ങളിൽ എന്തുതന്നെ വ്യവസ്ഥ ചെയ്തിരുന്നാലും സെറിൽമെൻറ് പാട്ടമിച്ചത്തിന് കാണത്തിൻറെ പലിശകഴിച്ചുള്ള തുക കൊടുത്താൽ മതി എന്നു റഗുലേഷനിൽ വ്യവസ്ഥചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇങ്ങനെവന്നതു റഗുലേഷൻ ഉണ്ടാക്കിയകാലത്തു് അതിനേപ്പറ്റിശരിയായിആലോചിക്കാത്തതുകൊണ്ടാണു്. കഴിഞ്ഞ കണ്ടെഴുത്തുകാലത്തു് ചേരിക്കൽ വസ്തുക്കൾക്കുള്ള സെറിൽമെൻറുപാട്ടം വളരെ കുറവായിരുന്നു. പല സന്ദർഭങ്ങളിലും കാണത്തിൻറെ തുക സെറിൽമെൻറു പാട്ടമിച്ചത്തിനെക്കാൾ കൂടിവരികയും അതനുസരിച്ചു കുടിയാനു് ജന്മിക്കരം കൊടുക്കേണ്ടിവരികയും ചെയ്യുന്നതാണു്; ഈ വിധം വിരുദ്ധമായ രീതിയിൽ കലാശിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ജന്മികുടിയാൻ നിയമത്തിലെ തെറ്റിനെ പരിഹരിക്കേണ്ടതു് വളരെ അത്യാവശ്യമാണെന്നു ഞാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ ഉൽബോധിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Sir, it is some consolation to note that the mould in which the Budget for the next year is cast is slightly better than the one in which the current year's budget was cast. The disappearance of the Deputy Director for education and of the Deputy Darbar Physicians is certainly a mercy. The members of this House have been pressing on various occasions for the abolition of these bi-valved officers exhibiting by turns signs of subordination and superiority in their respective departments. No doubt, we are not quite in possession of all the facts which led to their immediate downfall. At the previous session of this Assembly, the Chief Secretary was plied hard with a number of interpellations with reference to the punishments meted out to those involved in the Thycaud Hospital affair. He, on account of chivalrous notions, I think, thought fit to extend the *purdah* system even to punishments; so much so we do not know the circumstances under which the present phenomenon was brought about.

Another aspect in the present Budget is the preliminary steps taken by the Government to industrialise the State to some extent. It is the opinion of certain writers on economics that for the ordered advance

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of a State there must be a balanced harmony of industrial and agricultural pursuits. Our State hitherto has been agricultural and the results are in painfully clear evidence at the present juncture. So the attempts of the Government in the direction of the Hydro-Electric Scheme at Pallivasal, the Rubber Factory at Chackai and the participation in the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research are all welcome signs.

One criticism has been levelled against the Hydro-Electric Scheme in-as-much as the funds necessary for it have been diverted from the Sinking Fund ear-marked for the transfer of the Quilon-Shencotta line at a future date to this Government. The point of the criticism was that it is not quite in keeping with the financial fashion which would, as far as possible, try to raise loans in the money market. Then the present system has also been criticised as conservative method in economics. This view was, however, in conflict with the views of at least one friend, I recollect, who said that owing to the financial unsoundness of the State it is difficult to raise anything like a loan in the money market elsewhere. He also suggested that the money obtainable from the diversion of the Sinking Fund should be converted into gold and the Account Officer may be asked to sit permanently upon the heap. Probably the Account Officer, however uncomfortable his seat may be, will be very glad to be mounted upon a pile of gold, provided somebody would guarantee that there would not be any undermining beneath him and that he would not be let down. These are some of the points brought forward; but their basis is not beyond question. With reference to the position of France recently in her attempt to hoard gold, it has been pointed out by a recent writer, that it led France to unexpected troubles. It is anyhow quite impossible to examine these theories here and I may simply submit that I am not convinced that there is anything financially unwise in the diversion of the Railway Sinking Fund for the purpose of the Hydro-Electric Scheme at Pallivasal. The other items are unimportant and they cannot either be condemned as any sweeping misapplication of the valuable assets of the State.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know from the member whether he is in a position to say that it is not at all necessary to purchase the line from Quilon to Shencotta?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): As to that, I find it difficult to decide the question at present, for the purchase of the line, if at all it is to take place, at a distant date, about 12 years hence, what the circumstances then would be, it is difficult to forecast now.

MR. P. CHIDAMBARAM PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Does the member think that aeroplanes will come into existence at that time?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): It is quite possible.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Does not the member think that, if the railway line is worth buying then, we can float a loan at that time?

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MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): If it is found an attractive proposition eleven years hence there is nothing objectionable in the State purchasing the line by floating a loan.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know from the member what is the rate of interest guaranteed by the Secretary of State?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): The member may refer to any published record about it, if available.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Is the member aware and can he give me an answer?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): He is not seeking to get any information. He is testing my awareness in a particular matter.

So I am submitting that these preliminary attempts on the part of the State to industrialise the country to some extent are quite welcome. The abolition of unnecessary posts indicates further the responsiveness on the part of the Government to the representations of the people on the need for retrenchment. Therefore, to this extent, at any rate, I am in a position to congratulate the Financial Secretary and the Government on what they have done in the Budget Estimates.

I now turn to certain dark aspects of the Budget Estimates. The population of the State is divided into two sets, the employed and the unemployed. As regards the unemployed, the Financial Secretary has no solution to offer for the relief of unemployment. That aspect of the matter has been completely ignored by the Financial Secretary. Then we come to the employed ones. They are mainly the agriculturists of the State. The State is certainly in the grip of a prevailing economic depression. There is no doubt about that. Last year when the Financial Secretary presented the Budget Estimates, he appeared to be as cool as a cucumber, and pretended that he was unaware of the persistent economic depression in the State. This year, anyhow, he has been good enough to admit it in pretty emphatic terms. But this admission of his does not appear to be anything deeper than from the lip outward. What is the provision for the relief of the agriculturist of the State? He speaks of a 12½ per cent. remission in some part of his speech. But Rao Sahib S. Parameswara Iyer has pointed out that the figures will falsify the validity of the statement. I am submitting, Sir, that if, as a matter of fact, there is considerable difficulty to realise the tax from the agriculturists and need to afford relief to the agriculturists from taxation, the figures contained in the Receipts column of the Budget must be taken as affected by a sort of financial elephantiasis which would not stand the Government in any good stead, when put to the test. In regard to the agriculturists themselves, their lot is undoubtedly a hard one. They are first of all steeped in indebtedness. The approach of a civil court peon or Amin would generally create a consternation in the minds of the agriculturists, even when such functionaries have no civil intentions on them.

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They have to see to the education of their children and find funds for the ever-increasing school fees and other requirements insisted on by the educational authorities. Even for the purpose of moving about in their water-logged areas, they have to be afraid of the watchfulness of the P. W. D. ready to pounce upon their boats if the boats are found unregistered or attempting to avoid the toll contractor. For the purpose of carrying on the cultivation in the fields, they have to borrow and the sources from which they may do so are dwindling. These are some of the troubles that these people are obsessed with. It is in such circumstances that the revenue agency wants to apply the thumbscrew to them. Last year the Government made a remission of 25 per cent. in South Travancore, 12½ per cent over ordinary *punja* cultivations and 25 per cent in *Kayals*, ignoring the condition of the Kandukrishi tenants totally. The Kandukrishi tenants stand very much in need of relief. No doubt the legal incidents of their holding are diffierent. Government, in their management of Kandukrishi lands, will have to take the question into serious consideration and make appropriate representation of their difficulties to His Highness the Maha-Raja who in sympathy is sure to do something for them. I am submitting therefore that, so far as the employed section of the population is concerned, provision in the budget is quite inadequate and far from what is actually required. Then we may consider certain ways and means as to how this question may be tackled.

In the field of medical relief, health and sanitation, it is very difficult to make any saving to afford relief to the agriculturists, for the cry in the State is that there is not sufficient number of hospitals and dispensaries to affiord medical relief. A few days ago, on the invitation of Mr. Statham, we were considering the question of medical inspection of the students in the State. The Durbar Physician, who had a previous talk with Mr. Statham, is said to have pointed out that the inspecting officers in the Medical Department could very well find out the ailments the students are suffering from, but for medical relief they have to go to hospitals which are situated far away from the village parts and it is very difficult for these students to get medical relief. A reorganisation and a re-distribution of the hospitals is probably necessary to afford adequate medical relief. That question has to be considered. Probably honorary physicians may be brought into existence in the State to advance the cause of medical relief. Various other questions in that direction require further examination. As for sanitation the Financial Secretary had promised, in the previous year's budget speech, that he would at leasgrant one health unit somewhere in North or Central Travancore, but forgot to provide for it this year. There is one solitary health unit in Neyyattinkara where the sort of ailments that prevail are entirely different from those in other places such as Shertala where filiariasis is prevalent. Why not start one health unit at Shertala? So there is no possibility of effecting any saving in the Health Department.

In the matter of communications every section of the population is clamouring for the introduction of further means of communication. So it is also difficult to make any saving there.

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As for Police and Administration of Justice, we cannot do without them. However much we may blame the police, they are at least a necessary evil. No doubt the question may be considered, Sir, in the light of the recent operations of the Police Department whether we cannot make a further saving there. Last year owing to the persistent representation of the Commissioner of Police, we allowed the six Assistant superintendents to stand. It was said that they were found necessary to make superior sorts of investigation in grave cases. But judged by the pronouncements of the High Court, the results are poor. Investigations of certain heinous offences have ultimately resulted in the acquittal of the alleged offenders and the conduct of some of the Police Inspectors has been criticised. It may probably be retorted by the learned Police Commissioner that the High Court is in the wrong. I would be very glad if he makes out a case like that. Then I shall be very glad to suggest, Sir, that a Privy Council may be organised in Travancore to advise the Sovereign. As matters stand at present the Police have to take the blame. However, it is time for us to consider whether the six Assistant Superintendents of Police are absolutely necessary in the Department. So, in all these directions it is rather difficult to make any substantial saving. As for the Judicial Department, they are extending their temporary courts *ad infinitim*.

Looking at the Budget the temporary staffs are being engaged from year to year as if there was nothing like an original estimate whenever a temporary staff was devised, as regards the time during which its work is to be got through. It should always be the endeavour to make a forecast of the time to carry out the work expected of the temporary staff. That seems to be not the case, for the temporary staffs are indefinitely extended. That seems to be the practice in the Judicial and some other departments. That is extremely unsatisfactory.

Then it has been suggested that the pay of every officer may be conveniently reduced. It was however a matter of surprise to me, Sir, if not also a matter for regret, that Sir Mohammed Habibullah was not free from the onslaught so made in regard to pay. I am sorry, Sir, the wide experience, the administrative ability, the intelligence, the sense of justice and fairness which characterise an officer like the present Dewan were overlooked by the learned member who delivered the attack.

At this stage the President left the Hall and the Deputy President took the Chair.

Where shall we be getting a gentleman of so much experience, so much ability, such reputation, such fair-play and sense of justice except in persons of this description and what sacrifice shall we not be prepared to make for securing the services of such eminent men is the question for our consideration. In the matter of reducing the pay of other officers, first of all, we have to eliminate as far as possible unnecessary officers; and then if it is found necessary, the pay of the officers may be reduced. If the officers have a patriotic feeling, the officers

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themselves must allow such a procedure. In England, Sir, even the pay of His Majesty's Judges was axed to the extent of 12 per cent. or so. Their salary is charged to the consolidated fund which is not open generally to the vote of the House. If, as a matter of fact, the question of financial unsoundness is made out, such a step will have to be taken. No doubt a thorough investigation of the question by a body, on which representatives of the people from both the Houses of Legislature in Travancore should be represented, is necessary; such a committee should be formed to go into the question and find out how far there is necessity to reduce the pay and reduce the offices in the State. Therefore, though I am prepared to agree with some of my friends who have something to say by way of congratulation to the Financial Secretary, there is much to be expected to remedy the defects and the Government have to take note of these before they adopt the Budget.

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*): ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറിഅവർകൾ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ബഡ്ജറിനെ മെമ്പറന്മാരിൽ പലരും എതിർത്തും ചിലർ അനുകൂലിച്ചും തങ്ങളുടെ അഭിപ്രായങ്ങൾ രേഖപ്പെടുത്തിക്കഴിഞ്ഞു. ബഡ്ജറിനെപ്പറ്റി എനിക്കുള്ള അഭിപ്രായം രേഖപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനുമുമ്പെ അധഃകൃതരെ സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള ഏതാനും സംഗതികൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ദയാദൃഷ്ടിക്കു വിഷയീഭവിപ്പിക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ കരുതുന്നു. അധഃകൃതരെ അവരുടെ സാമുദായികം, സാമ്പത്തികം, വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം, രാഷ്ട്രീയം മുതലായ സംഗതികളിൽ സഹായിച്ചു മുന്നണിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതിലേക്കായി നിശ്ചിതമായ യാതൊരു പദ്ധതിയും ഗവണ്മെൻറു രൂപീകരിച്ചു പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നില്ല. വ്യവസ്ഥാപിതമായ ഒരു പദ്ധതി രൂപീകരിച്ചു പ്രവർത്തിക്കാതിരിക്കുന്നിടത്തോളംകാലം ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ഉദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ ഒന്നുംതന്നെ അധഃകൃതർക്കനുകൂലമായി പരിണമിക്കുന്നതുമല്ല. റഷ്യയിൽ നടപ്പിൽഇരിക്കുന്നപ്രകാരം ഒരു ദശവത്സരപദ്ധതി രൂപീകരിച്ചു അധഃകൃതരുടെകാര്യത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറു പ്രവർത്തിക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. ഈ അസംബ്ളിയിൽനിന്നുതന്നെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥാനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ അടങ്ങിയ ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റിയെ ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുകയും അവരുടെ സാന്നിദ്ധ്യത്തിൽ അധഃകൃതോദ്ധാരണത്തിനു വേണ്ട പദ്ധതികൾ രൂപീകരിക്കയും അതു പബ്ളിക്കിൻെറ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്നു വല്ല ഭേദഗതികളും ചെയ്യേണ്ടതുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അങ്ങിനെയും ചെയ്തു നിശ്ചയായി പ്രവർത്തിക്കേണ്ടതു അത്യന്താപേക്ഷിതമാണെന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ ഉൽബോധിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

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അധഃകൃതരുടെ ഉന്നമനത്തിന അത്യന്താപേക്ഷിതമായിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു സംഗതി വിദ്യാഭ്യാസമാണ്. ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്ന പല സഹായങ്ങളും അധഃകൃതരുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനുവേണ്ടി ചെയ്യുവരുന്നുണ്ട്. ഫീസ്സുകൊഴുജന്യമാണ് അതിൽ മുഖ്യമായിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഫീസ്സുസൌജന്യം അധഃകൃതരിൽ ഏതാനും വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്കുമാത്രമേ അനുകൂലമായിരിക്കുന്നുള്ളു. പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ, വസ്ത്രം മുതലായവ വാങ്ങുന്നതിന കഴിവില്ലാത്തവരും അഥവാ ഒരുനേരത്തെ കഞ്ഞിവേലാലും കുടിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് സ്കൂളുകളിൽപോകാൻ നിവർത്തിയില്ലാത്തവരുമായ അധഃകൃതവിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്ക ഫീസ്സുസൌജന്യംകൊണ്ടു എന്തുപ്രയോജനമാണുണ്ടാകുന്നതെന്ന ഗവണ്മെൻറ ആലോചിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. അധഃകൃതവിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്ക സൌജന്യവിദ്യാഭ്യാസം ഏർപ്പെടുത്തണമെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനോടു അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നത്. അതായത അധഃകൃതവിദ്യാർത്ഥികളുടെ ഭക്ഷണം, വസ്ത്രം, പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ മുതലായ സകല ചെലവുകളും ഗവണ്മെൻറ തന്നെ വഹിക്കണം. രാജ്യം ഒട്ടുക്ക ഫ്രീസ്കൂളുകൾ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തി ഈ വിധത്തിൽ അധഃകൃതവിദ്യാർത്ഥികളെ പഠിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. അധഃകൃതരെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളമെങ്കിലും വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം നിർബന്ധമാക്കണമെന്ന ഞാൻ അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു. ഇംഗ്ലീഷ്വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിന സൌകര്യമുള്ള ഏതാനും സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ അധഃകൃതവിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്കുവേണ്ടി ഗവണ്മെൻറ ഹോസ്റ്റലുകൾ സ്ഥാപിക്കേണ്ടതും അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള ഹോസ്റ്റലുകളിൽ അധഃകൃതവിദ്യാർത്ഥികളെ സ്വീകരിച്ചു സകല ചെലവുകളും കൊടുത്തു അവരെ ഇംഗ്ലീഷ്വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിന സഹായിക്കേണ്ടതുമാണ്. ഈ നയം ഗവണ്മെൻറ പദ്ധതിയിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തി സഹായിക്കാത്തപക്ഷം അധഃകൃതർക്ക ഒരു പ്രകാരത്തിലും വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിൽ മുമ്പോട്ടുവരുന്നതിന കഴിവുണ്ടാകുന്നതല്ല.

വിദ്യാഭ്യാസംകഴിഞ്ഞാൽ പിന്നത്തേതു ഉദ്യോഗസമ്പാദനമാണ്. ഉദ്യോഗസമ്പാദനവിഷയത്തിൽ അധഃകൃതർക്കുള്ള പ്രയാസം ഒട്ടുംതന്നെ ചില്ലറയല്ല ഗവണ്മെൻറ ഒരുക്കൂട്ടം പ്രജകളെ കൂടുതൽ താഴ്ത്തുകയും അവർക്ക സകലവിധമായ സഹായങ്ങളും ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കയും അവർ ഉന്ന ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ മുഴുവനും കരസ്ഥമാക്കുകയും ചെയ്തുകഴിഞ്ഞു. അവരുടെ കൈപ്പുറത്തുനിന്നുവീഴുന്ന അപ്പക്ഷണങ്ങൾമാത്രം അനുഭവിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു അധഃകൃതരിലും ഏതാനുംപേർ ഉദ്യോഗത്തിനായി മുമ്പോട്ടുവരുന്നുമുണ്ട് അപ്പോൾ സാക്ഷരതപോകി ഉദ്യോഗവിതരണം ചെയ്യണമെന്നുള്ള വ്യവസ്ഥയും ഉണ്ടായിവരുന്നു. സാക്ഷരതപ

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നോക്കി അധഃകൃതർക്കു ഇപ്പോൾ കൊടുത്തിരിക്കുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ കൂടുലായിപ്പോയി എന്നു പറയുന്നവരും ഉണ്ടു്. ഈ നയം ഒട്ടുംതന്നെ അഭിലഷണീയമല്ല. ഒരു ശതമാനം ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ മാറ്റിവെച്ചു അധഃകൃതരിൽ പരീക്ഷായോഗ്യതയുള്ള എല്ലാവർക്കും കൊടുക്കുകയാണു് ഗവണ്മെന്റു ചെയ്യേണ്ടതു. ഓരോ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലും അധഃകൃതരെ ധാരാളം നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു പറഞ്ഞു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ തൃപ്തി അടയുന്നമുണ്ടു്. നന്നായി പരിശോധിക്കുമ്പോൾ ഈഴവരിൽനിന്നും, നാടാന്മാരിൽനിന്നും ആളുകളെ നിയമിച്ചിട്ടു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ തൃപ്തിഅടയുന്നതായിട്ടാണു് വെളിപ്പെടുന്നതു്. ഈ വിധത്തിൽ പ്രവർത്തിച്ചുകൂടാത്തതാണു്. ഈഴവരും നാടാന്മാരും പിന്നോക്കംനിൽക്കുന്ന സമുദായങ്ങളാണു്. സമുദായസംബന്ധമായി അവക്കു ചില അവശതകൾ ഉണ്ടെന്നു സമ്മതിക്കതന്നെവേണം. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം, സാമ്പത്തികം, ഉദ്യോഗസമ്പാദനം, സാമുദായികം മുതലായസംഗതികളിൽ അധഃകൃതർക്കുള്ളതുപോലുള്ള അവശതകൾ പിന്നോക്കംനിൽക്കുന്ന സമുദായങ്ങൾക്കില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ടു് അധഃകൃതരെ പിന്നോക്കംനിൽക്കുന്ന സമുദായങ്ങളിൽനിന്നു വേർതിരിക്കണം. സവർണ്ണക്രിസ്ത്യാനികളിൽനിന്നു അധഃകൃതക്രിസ്ത്യാനികളേയും വേർപിരിക്കണം.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): അധഃകൃതക്രിസ്ത്യാനികളെ എങ്ങിനെയാണു് വേർതിരിക്കാൻ കഴിയുന്നതു്?

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*): സ്റ്റാറിസ്റ്റിക്സ് നോക്കി അവരെ വേർതിരിക്കാവുന്നതാണു്.

അവരെ ഒന്നായിനിറുത്തി ഗവണ്മെൻറു പ്രത്യേകം അവക്കു സൌജന്യങ്ങളും ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളും നൽകണം. അധഃകൃതഹിന്ദുക്കളോടു കൂടുതൽ ദാക്ഷിണ്യം കാണിക്കുന്നതിൽ ക്രിസ്ത്യാനികൾക്കു യാതൊരു വിമുഖതയുമില്ല.

പ്രജകൾക്കു അനുവദിക്കുന്ന എല്ലാത്തരം അവകാശങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും അധഃകൃതരെ ഒഴിച്ചുനിറുത്തിക്കൊണ്ടാണു്. ഗവണ്മെൻറു പ്രവർത്തിച്ചുവരുന്നതു്. പബ്ലിക്കുസർവീസ്സു റിക്രൂട്ടുമെൻറുകമ്മറ്റി, പരസ്പരസഹായ എൻകയറിക്കമ്മറ്റി, ഇവ രണ്ടും ഇതിനു ഉത്തമദൃഷ്ടാന്തങ്ങളാണു്. മേൽപറഞ്ഞ കമ്മറ്റികൾ അധഃകൃതരെസംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം കൂടുതൽ പ്രാധാന്യം അർഹിക്കുന്നവയാണു്. ഈ കമ്മിറ്റികളിൽ അധഃകൃതരിൽനിന്നു ആരെയും നിയമിച്ചിരുന്നില്ല. കമ്മറ്റിയുടെ പ്രശ്നാവലികൾക്കു അധഃകൃതർ നൽകിയിരുന്ന മറുപടികളും കമ്മ

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റിക്കാർ ആടരിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. ഇതുനിമിത്തം അധഃകൃതർ മുറവിളിക്കൂട്ടി അവർ അർഹിക്കുന്ന അവകാശങ്ങൾ വാങ്ങേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. അധഃകൃതരെസംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം ഇതു കഷ്ടതരമായ ഒരു നയമാണ്. അതിനാൽ പൊതുതാല്പര്യങ്ങൾക്കായി ഗവണ്മെൻറു കമ്മറികൾ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുമ്പോൾ ആവക സംഗതികളെപ്പറ്റി പരിജ്ഞാനം സിദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള അധഃകൃതരെക്കൂടെ കമ്മറിമെമ്പറന്മാരായി നിയമിക്കാതെ കമ്മറികൾ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തരുതെന്നു അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

കടലാസ്സുനിമ്മിതം, റബ്ബർഫാക്ടറി എന്നിതുകൾക്കായി ബഡ്ജറിൽ പണം അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതിൽ ഫിനാൻസ്സുസെക്രട്ടറി അവർകളെ അനുമോദിക്കുന്നു. നാട്ടിലുള്ള ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ക്രയവിക്രയലാഭിക്കുക എന്നുള്ളതു ഈ കാലത്തു വലിയ ഒരു കാര്യംതന്നെയാണ്.

തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ആറൊ ഏഴൊ താലൂക്കുകളോളം മാത്രം വലിപ്പമുള്ളതും ഒന്നേകാൽലക്ഷം അധഃകൃതർമാത്രമുള്ളതും ആയ കൊച്ചീരാജ്യത്തു അധഃകൃതർക്കുവേണ്ടി നീക്കിവെച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന തുക എൺപതിനായിരം രൂപായാണ്. പത്തുലക്ഷത്തോളംവരുന്ന അധഃകൃതർക്കു ഇവിടെ നീക്കിവെച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു കേവലം പതിനായിരംരൂപയുമാണ്. ഇവിടത്തെ അധഃകൃതരുടെ നേർക്കുള്ള ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ഈ മനഃസ്ഥതിയെപ്പറ്റി എന്താണ് പറയേണ്ടതെന്നു എനിക്കു ഒരു രൂപവുമില്ല. അധഃകൃതരുടെപേരിൽ എത്ര വൻതുകതന്നെ ഇവിടെ നീക്കിവച്ചാലും അതു ചെലവായിപ്പോകുമെന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു ശങ്കിക്കേണ്ടതില്ല. കടലാസ്സിലും പ്രസംഗവേദികളിലും മാത്രമെ അവരുടെ സഹായം ഇന്നു സ്ഥിതിചെയ്യുന്നുള്ളു. ഞങ്ങൾക്കു തന്നിരിക്കുന്ന അധഃകൃതസംരക്ഷകനെക്കൊണ്ടു ഞങ്ങൾക്കു ഒരു പ്രയോജനവും ഇല്ല. പേഷ്കാരന്മാർ, തഹശീൽദാരന്മാർ എന്നുവേണ്ടാ യാതൊരുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും അദ്ദേഹത്തെ വകവെയ്ക്കുയില്ല. അതിനുതക്കവണ്ണമുള്ള അന്തസ്സോ അധികാരങ്ങളോ അദ്ദേഹത്തിനില്ലതാനും. മുഴുവൻസമയവും അധഃകൃതരുടെ കാര്യത്തിൽ ചെലവഴിക്കുത്തക്കവണ്ണമുള്ള ഒരു അധഃകൃതസംരക്ഷകനാണു ഞങ്ങൾക്കാവശ്യം. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ സംരക്ഷകനെ രജിസ്ട്രരസഹായസംഘം രജിസ്ട്രാർ അവർകളുടെ അസിസ്റ്റൻറായിട്ടുമാത്രമാണ് നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്. അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ നിയമനംകൊണ്ടു അധഃകൃതർക്കു യാതൊരു പ്രയോജനവും ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതുമല്ല. അധഃകൃതരുടെപേരിൽ ഒരു വൻതുക ചെലവാക്കുന്നു എന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു സമാധാനപ്പെടാമെന്നേയുള്ളു. അതുകൊണ്ടു കൂടുതൽ അധികാരങ്ങളോടുകൂടി അന്തസ്സുള്ള

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വേറൊരാളെ അധഃകൃതസംരക്ഷകനായി നിയമിച്ചതരണമെന്ന ഗവണ്മെൻറിനോട അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

പിന്നീടുള്ളതു അധഃകൃതരുടെ ഭൂമിസമ്പാദനമാണ്. ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഒട്ടുംതന്നെ ശ്രദ്ധപതിക്കുന്നില്ല. അധഃകൃതക്കായി തിരിച്ചിട്ടതിൽ നല്ലസ്ഥലങ്ങളെല്ലാം അന്യക്കായി പതിച്ചുകൊടുത്തുകഴിഞ്ഞു. വേറെ സ്ഥലങ്ങളും തിരിച്ചുതന്നിട്ടുമില്ല. ധനസ്ഥിതിക്കും വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനും പ്രത്യക്ഷമായ മാനദണ്ഡം ഭൂസ്വത്താണ്. ഇതിനു അധഃകൃതക്കു വഴിയില്ല. അവർക്കു പൌരന്മാരായി വോട്ടവകാശമുള്ളവരായി ജീവിക്കുന്നതിനു ഭൂമിസമ്പാദനം അത്യാവശ്യമാണ്. ഭൂമിയില്ലെങ്കിൽ നിത്യവൃത്തിക്കും വഴിയില്ല. ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറു മൌനം ദീക്ഷിക്കുന്നപക്ഷം അധഃകൃതരെ എന്നും അടിമകളാക്കിത്തന്നെ ഇടാം എന്നുള്ളതാണ് അതിന്റെ ഫലം.

വ്യവസായത്തിനു ഗവണ്മെൻറു കൂടുതൽ പണം അനുവദിച്ചുകാണുന്നില്ല. ഒരു സ്കൂൾ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തി കുട്ടികളെ പഠിപ്പിക്കുന്നരീതിയിൽ മാത്രമുള്ള ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ സംപ്രദായം വ്യവസായാഭിവൃദ്ധിക്കു പറ്റിയതല്ല നാട്ടിൻപുറങ്ങളിലുള്ള തൊഴിലില്ലാത്ത ജനങ്ങൾക്കു നിത്യവൃത്തിക്കു ഉതകത്തക്ക തൊഴിൽ ഉണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊടുക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം കുടിൽ വ്യവസായം നാട്ടിൽ പരത്തുന്നതിനു കൂടുതൽ പണം അനുവദിച്ചും ശ്രദ്ധപതിച്ചും പ്രവർത്തിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ അധഃകൃതരെ കൂടുതൽ പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കയുംവേണം.

DEEUTY PRESIDENT: മി. ജോസഫിനു ഇനി രണ്ടുമിനിറ്റുസമയം മാത്രമേയുള്ളു.

Mr. N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*): ഈ അസംബ്ലിയിൽനിന്നു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും അടങ്ങിയ ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റിയെ രൂപീകരിക്കയും അവർ സമർപ്പിക്കുന്ന നിശ്ചിതപദ്ധതി സ്വീകരിച്ചു അധഃകൃതസംരക്ഷണവേല ആരംഭിക്കയും ചെയ്യുന്നതിനുഗവണ്മെൻറിനു ഉത്തരവുണ്ടാകണമെന്നു അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു ഞാൻ വിരമിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

Miss HEPZIBAH GNANASIKAMONY (*Nominated*) Sir, I wish to bring to the notice of Government the miserable conditions prevailing in rural areas. Their physical hardships are many. The villagers have no good *drinking water* even. The women have to get water from wells miles and miles away. Most probably many have not experienced the difficulty of walking on sand and that too in the hot sand.

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There are no proper roads and, I should say, Sir, women suffer most on account of this want of roads. During times of emergencies, the doctors are unable to arrive in time at the spot since they have to walk long distances through sand and water. And, is it not a pity that even in these advanced times there should be so many deaths on account of maternity?

Further, sanitary work is not done properly in villages. It is from personal experience that I am speaking of this grave fault. The vaccinators do not follow any scientific technique in rural parts. They neither wash their own hands nor the hands of the persons vaccinated; nor do they sterilise the instruments used. In town parts, vaccination is done on scientific lines. The villagers are often bed-ridden on account of such mismanagement and no wonder the villagers hate the very presence of vaccinators. They run and hide themselves if possible. The few that submit themselves for vaccination do so thinking that it is a law by Government for something they cannot understand or a mischief by the vaccinators themselves. They are unaware of the fact that it is good for them.

This ignorance can be removed by appointing women vaccinators. I do not see any reason why women cannot do this work efficiently. I presonally feel that I cannot agree with the view of Government expressed in the Legislative Council a few years ago that women are unable to do this work efficiently.

Further I would request Government to appoint some public health nurses who can enlighten the villagers about the methods of sanitation.

I am glad that provision is made in this year's budget for cinema shows, pamphlets, etc. I ask Government, Sir, to take the necessary steps to propagate such knowledge by means of the vernaculars of the State. Again, since a staff of nine more sanitary Inspectors is provided for in the budget, let them scruitinise the work of the department carefully in its various activities. Instead of exhibiting six or seven cinema shows in big towns where a few will suffice, let them concentrate their attention more in rural areas.

Sir, it is high time that attention is paid to rural uplift. Instead of spending more and more money on *luxuries in towns*, much money should be spent in future *on rural necessities*. Permit me, Sir, to read just a few lies from the Report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture in India which emphasise the point that immediate attention should be paid by all Governments to rural uplift.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The House will now adjourn and meet again at 2 'o clock. You can resume your speech then.

MISS HEPZIBAH GNANASIKAMONY (*Nominated*): Thank you, Sir.

The House adjourned at 1 P. M. and reassembled at 2 P. M.

MISS HEPZIBAH GNANASIKAMONY (*Nominated*): The Commission observe as follows:—"The demand for a better life can, in our opinion, be stimulated only by a deliberate and concerted effort to improve the

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[Mr. Hepzibah Gnanasikamony.]

general conditions of the country side and we have no hesitation in affirming that the responsibility for initiating the steps required to effect this improvement rests with Government.

"We feel that its force is inadequately appreciated by the Government of India and by local Governments and that the necessity that the rural problem should be attacked as a whole and at all points simultaneously is still insufficiently present to their minds."

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Have you much more to read?

Miss HEPZIBAH GNANASIKAMONY (*Nominated*): Just one sentence more, Sir, if I may be permitted to read.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Yes.

Miss HEPZIBAHAZ GNANASIKAMONY (*Nominated*): "If the inertia of centuries is to be overcome, it is essential that all the resources at the disposal of the State should be brought to bear on the problem of rural uplift?"

Another point which I request government to consider is that of founding homes for destitutes at least in the municipal towns of the State. Another member expresed the same idea yesterday and hence I do not propose to dwell at any more length on this topic. But, it will be a grievous fault on my part, Sir, if I do not mention the severe hardships experienced by the disabled—especially by the women. The difficulties that confront the women destitutes are many and can better be imagained than expressed. Hence, Sir, I hope Government will consider this question seriously and find some remedy for this standing problem, in the immediate future.

SRIMATI T. NARAYANI AMMA (*Nominated*): The budget for 1110 introduced by the learned Financial Secretary may be said to present some gratifying features, though I am sorry to have to say that it is a disappointing document in several respects. It is gratifying to find that, in spite of the fact that economic depression still persists and commodity prices still remain low, the Financial Secretary has been able to provide for a surplus of about 2.60 lakhs of rupees. I am glad to find that provision has been made for schemes like the rubber factory in Trivandrum from which some substantial benefit may be expected. Again, provision has been made for a further improvement of the educational and economic conditions of the depressed classes. The lump sum provided for working out a scheme of additional grants-in-aid to private school teachers in proportion to the number of depressed class pupils will, I am sure, be found to be very useful. "Under Co-operation again I find that funds to the extent of Rs. 10,000 are proposed to be placed at the disposal of the Protector of the Depressed Classes for carrying out measures for the general amelioration of the depressed classes in the State.

I am also glad, Sir, to find that the Financial Secretary's speech is not a dry-as-dust document. He has made it interesting by offering explanations of some of the measures adopted by the Government, and by presenting glimpses of the policy which the Government propose to follow in several matters.

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While there are these gratifying features, it is disappointing to note that the present pitiable condition of the middle class and poor people has not been adequately taken into consideration by the Government's financial advisers in framing the Budget. No provision has been made for any relief to the ryots who are, as the Government themselves are aware, in a pitiable plight. Provision is also not made for any constructive scheme for the economic relief of the people.

Coming to some of the important departments of the State, I am sorry to find that, under "Medical, Public Health and Sanitation", adequate provision has not been made for a large number of lady doctors. The total number of lady doctors in the State is now very small and in view of the large number of women patients who resort to the hospitals, it is highly necessary that their number should be increased. In the General Hospital itself, there is urgent need for the appointment of a lady doctor. It would have been therefore in the fitness of things if provision had been made for strengthening the staff of lady doctors. The general public would also have been gladder if a larger allotment had been made for Ayurveda.

Under "Public Halth" we note that provission has been made for the continuance of the intensive vaccination campaign started in Kumbhom last. This is as it should be, But, why it has been decided to abolish the hookworm campaign, about the usefulness of which so much has been said, one fails to understand.

With regard to Agriculture and Fisheries, the policy adopted by the Government to become a member of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research is one that will be appreciated by all, in view of the advantages that the State is likely to derive from such a membership.

Coming to Industries, the total provision made is, though more than the actuals of 1108, less than the Budget estimate for 1109. This cannot be said to be satisfactory. One of the most important departments of activities that stands in need of further development, in view of the low economic condition of the people, is, in my humble opinion, the one connected with Industries ; and a larger allotment for the expansion of the existing Industries and the establishment of new ones would certainly have been appreciated by the people. No doubt, provision is made for the continuance of some of the minor Industries started by the Department. But more remains to be done. In Travancore, as in many of the other countries, the most important problem that now agitates the minds of the people is their economic condition. It is a truism to say that the development of industries will go a long way in improving the economic condition of the people. The Government at one of the budget sessions of the Legislative Council have declared it as their policy to promote cottage industries. But no scheme has been launched in connection with such a policy. It is admitted on all hands that there is considerable scope for the starting of several new cottage industries and the development of many

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[Srimati T. Narayani Amma.]

existing industries. In his illuminating Report on the Census of 1931, the Census Commissioner himself has drawn prominent attention to some of them. Is it not possible, I ask, Sir, to draw up a scheme, whereby, with a system of subsidy or other means of encouragement, there might be a network of cottage industries in the State? I emphasise this point particularly because women could make a notable contribution to such a scheme of things. I am not divulging any domestic secrets, when I say that in many households women have now plenty of leisure to be utilised for doing some small industrial work. In these days when the unemployment problem has affected the educated women also, any well—considered scheme of domestic industries would in every way be advantageous. If the Government think that in this matter the initiative ought to be taken by the people, I am afraid that under existing conditions it will not be a practical proposition. And hence it is that I strongly plead for the introduction of some scheme under which, without being called upon to invest much capital, every member of a household can engage himself or herself in some profitable home industry. If such a thing is accomplished, the economic condition of many families will be considerably improved, and the problem of unemployment also will, to a considerable extent, be mitigated. I fully trust, Sir, that this question will engage the earnest attention of the Government.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The time at our disposal is limited and there are members who have not yet spoken. I notice attempts are made by many members to catch the eye of the Chair by rising from their seats. Many points have been raised. I am sure the House will agree with me in thinking that there is very little use in repeating the same facts and the same arguments. New points are welcome. But all the same I may tell the House that the members will adopt the salutary rule of making their speeches as brief as possible. It will be of immense advantage.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): സർ, ഈ സഭയുടെ ആലോചനക്കു വിഷയമായിരിക്കുന്ന അടുത്തവർഷത്തെ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് ഒരു ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽസെക്രട്ടറിയുടെ നിലയിൽ ആലോചനയോടും, ചുമതലാബോധത്തോടുംകൂടി തയ്യാറാക്കിയിട്ടുള്ള ഒന്നാണെന്ന് പറയാൻ നിവർത്തിയില്ല. പ്രസ്തുതബഡ്ജറ്റ് ഒരു അക്കൌണ്ടാഫീസ്സർ തയ്യാറാക്കിയിട്ടുള്ളതാണെന്നു എനിക്കു സധൈര്യം പറയാൻ കഴിയും. എന്നാൽ ഈ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് ഒരു അക്കൌണ്ടാഫീസ്സർ തയ്യാറാക്കിയിട്ടുള്ള ബഡ്ജറെന്നല്ല കാണുന്നതു്. ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ധനകാര്യദർശി തയ്യാറാക്കിയിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു ബഡ്ജറാണെന്നാണു് അടിയാളം വച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് മനസ്സി

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ലാക്കേണ്ടതു്. തിരുവിതാംകൂർജനതയുടേയും രാജ്യത്തിന്റേയും സ്ഥിതിയെ നല്ലവണ്ണം മനസ്സിലാക്കിയല്ല ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽസെക്രട്ടറി പ്രസ്തുത റിപ്പോർട്ടു തയ്യാറാക്കീട്ടുള്ളതു്. അതിനു കാരണവും ഉണ്ടെന്നതന്നെയാണു ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽസെക്രട്ടറി ഈ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് രൂപീകരിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു് യാതൊരു പ്രതിഫലവും കൂടാതെയാണു്. (ചിരി)

ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽസെക്രട്ടറിക്കു ശമ്പളമുള്ളതായി അതിൽ ഞാൻകാണുന്നില്ല. ശമ്പളമുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻ അക്കൌണ്ടാഫീസ്സറാണു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് മാതൃമാണു് പ്രതിഫലംകൂടാതെ തയ്യാറാക്കിയ ബഡ്ജറാണെന്നു് ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞതു്. കൂടാതെ ഈ ബഡ്ജറു് തയ്യാറാക്കിയതിനു് അക്കൌണ്ടാഫീസർക്കു ഒരു ആണേറിയംപോലും കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളതായി ഞാൻ കാണുന്നില്ല.

ഈ ബഡ്ജാറിനെപ്പറ്റി പൊതുവെ വിമർശിക്കാനാണു് ഞാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നതു്. ഒരു കർഷകന്റേയും ഉല്പാദകന്റേയും നിലയിലാണു് ഞാൻ പ്രസ്താവിക്കുന്നതു്. എനിക്കുള്ള സമയം പരിമിതമാണു്. ഏതായാലും എനിക്കു പറയാനുള്ള സംഗതികളിലേക്കു ഞാൻ നിങ്ങളുടെ ശ്രദ്ധയെ ക്ഷണിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

ഈ ബഡ്ജറിനെപ്പറ്റി വിമർശിക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുമ്പോൾ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിന്റെ ഇന്നത്തെ സ്ഥിതികളെപ്പറ്റിയുള്ള പലരൂപങ്ങളും എന്റെ ഹൃദയത്തിൽ ഞാൻ കാണുന്നുണ്ടു്. അതിൽ ചിലതിനെപ്പറ്റിമാത്രം പ്രസ്താവിക്കാമെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്നു. അതിൽ ഒന്നാമത്തേതു് വമ്പിച്ചുമാസപ്പടിയും വാങ്ങി പലവിധമായ ആയുധാദികളുടെ അകമ്പടിസേവയോടുകൂടി ഒരു ക്ലർക് ഭരണചക്രത്തെ മുൻപോട്ടുനയിക്കുന്നു. വേറൊരുഭാഗത്തു നോക്കുമ്പോൾ കാണുന്നതു് ഉടുക്കുന്നതിനു വസ്ത്രമില്ലാതേയും, കിടക്കുന്നതിനുസ്ഥലമില്ലാതേയും, കൂടിക്കുന്നതിനു കഞ്ഞിയില്ലാതേയും ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുന്ന ഒട്ടനവധിസാധുക്കളെയാണു്. വേറെ ഒരു വശത്തു് വലുതായഭാരം ചുമലിൽവഹിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു് മുൻപോട്ടുപോകുവാൻ യാതൊരു നിവൃത്തിയുമില്ലാതെ പീണംപേറും കഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്ന ഒരുകൂട്ടം ആളുകളെയാണു് പിന്നീടു ഒരു ക്ലർക്, രാത്രിയും പകലും ഏല്ലുമുറിയെ അദ്ധ്വാനിച്ചു് തങ്ങൾക്കു ലഭിക്കുന്ന ഉല്പന്നങ്ങളുടെ തുച്ഛമായ വിലകൊണ്ടു് തങ്ങളുടെ അഹോവൃത്തി കഴിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാതെ ആകാശത്തേക്കുനോക്കി മിഴിച്ചുനിൽക്കു

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[Mr. N. E. Varughsee]

ന്നു. ഏവംവിധങ്ങളായ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിന്റെ സ്ഥിതിയെശരിയായി കണ്ടിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽസെക്രട്ടറി ഈ വിധം ഒരു ബഡ്ജറവ് രൂപീകരിക്കയില്ലായിരുന്നു. ഈ നാട്ടിലെ കർഷകന്മാരുടെ നിലയേയും സ്ഥിതിയേയും പറ്റി ഗവണ്മെന്റിലെ ഗവണ്മെൻറുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരോ ശരിയായി മനസ്സിലാക്കീട്ടില്ല. ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽതന്നേയും അതിനെപ്പറ്റിയഥാർത്ഥത്തിൽവേണ്ടവണ്ണം ധരിച്ചിട്ടില്ലെന്നു ഞാൻ സങ്കടപൂർവം അറിയിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിനു പ്രത്യേകിച്ചു നേരിട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന അധഃപതനത്തിന്റെ ഭയങ്കരതയെപ്പറ്റി ഫൻനന്നൽ സെൻസസ്സുകമ്മീഷണർ പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്തീട്ടുള്ള റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽ നിന്നും താഴെപ്പറയുന്നവിധത്തിൽ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു:—

"The depression seems to have almost reached its climax in the early part of 1931. The prices of all commodities have stumped heavily. The fall have been much heavier in the prices of raw products which form the bulk of exports from Travancore than in those of imported manufactured goods. The prices of paddy, cocoanut products, pepper, ginger and other articles produced by the ordinary cultivators have dropped by 40 per cent. or even more. The rubber industry has practically been paralysed. Wages have gone down and unemployment has increased. Trade has diminished in volume and value. Money has become scarce and banks have reached the rock bottom of their resources. The people are abandoning the luxuries and are finding it difficult to provide even for necessities."

തിരുവിതാംകൂറിന്റെ തൽക്കാല അവസ്ഥയെപ്പറ്റി ശരിയായി വിവരിക്കുന്ന ഒരു പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണം വേറെഇല്ലെന്നാണു ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നതു്. മുൻപിലത്തെക്കാൾ എത്രയോമടങ്ങു ഭാരദ്രുത്തിലാണു് ഇന്നു തിരുവിതാംകൂർ സ്ഥിതിചെയ്യുന്നതെന്നുള്ളതിനു ഈ റിപ്പോർട്ടു സാക്ഷ്യംവഹിക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഉൽപന്നങ്ങളുടെ മുമ്പു നാല്പതു ശതമാനമായിരുന്നതു് ഇന്നു് എൺപതു ശതമാനമായി വർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുകയാണു്. ഈ അവസ്ഥക്കുഎന്താണു് ഒരു പരിഹാരം. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിന്റെ ഈ അധഃപതനസ്ഥിതിയെവർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനു പലകാരണങ്ങളുമുണ്ടു. സിലോൺ ടാർഫിഡോ തിരുവിതാംകൂർ വഞ്ചിയേമുക്കുന്നതിനായി പേണ്ടസാമഗ്രികളോടുകൂടി മുൻപോട്ടുപാഞ്ഞുവരുന്നു. ഇതുഭരണമേധാവികളോ ഗവണ്മെന്റോകാണുന്നുണ്ടോ ഇല്ലയോ? കണ്ടില്ലെങ്കിൽ തീർച്ചയായും വഞ്ചിയെ അതു് മുക്കും അല്ലെങ്കിൽ വഞ്ചിയുടെ അടിത്തട്ടുപൊട്ടും. ഈ രണ്ടവസ്ഥയും നേരിടുന്നപക്ഷം തിരുവിതാംകൂറിന്റെ ഭാവിഎന്തായിരിക്കുമെന്നാലോചിക്കുക! ഒരുപക്ഷേ വഞ്ചിമുങ്ങിപ്പോയാൽ അമരക്കാർ കഴുക്കോലും എറിഞ്ഞിട്ടു ചാടിഓടിപോകുമായിരിക്കാം. തിരുവ

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താംക്രിലെ ജനങ്ങൾം എവിടെ പോകും? അവക്ക് യാതൊരു ഗതിയു മില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ട സിലോൺ ടാർപിഡോയുടെ ആക്രമണത്തെ എതുക്കുന്നതിന് ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ സവ്ശകികളും പ്രയോഗിക്കണ മെന്ന് ഞാൻ വളരെ ശക്തിയോടുകൂടിയും വിനീതമായും ഗവണ്മെ ന്റിനെ ഉൽബോധിപ്പിച്ചു കൊള്ളുന്നു. ഞാൻ ഇപ്പോൾം പറഞ്ഞതു മറെറാന്നുമല്ല സിലോൺ കൊപ്രാ ഇഡ്യയിൽ വന്ന് തിരുവിതാംക്രർ കൊപ്രായെ അധപതിപ്പിക്കുന്നു. ഇതിനെപ്പററി ഗവണ്മെൻറു വേണ്ടതുഗ്രഹിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതുകൊണ്ട ശക്തിയോടുകൂടി അതിനോടു പോരാടണം.

ഇനി എനിക്കു പറയാനുള്ളതു കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെപ്പ ററിയാണ്. സർ, കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെ തുടക്കകാലത്തു ഇങ്ങ നെരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു ഉണ്ടാക്കിയതിനെപ്പററി ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വളരെ ആഹ്ലാദമുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ആദ്യകാലത്തെ ഡയറക്ടർ വേണ്ടതുപോലെ ചെയ്യുകയും എല്ലാകുഗ്രാമങ്ങളിലും സഞ്ചരിച്ചു വേണ്ടുന്ന വിധത്തിൽ ജനങ്ങളെ അതിലേക്കു ഉത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കയും ചെയ്തിരുന്നു എന്നുള്ളതു എനിക്കും അനുഭവമാണ്. എന്നാൽ ഇപ്പോഴാകട്ടെ അങ്ങിനെ ഒരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു ഉണ്ടെന്ന് തിരുവിതാംക്രറിലെ വളരെ മുതിർന്ന ആളു കൾക്കു മാത്രമേ അറിയാൻ പാടുള്ളു. ഇങ്ങനെ ഒരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെ ൻറു തിരുവിതാംക്രറിൽ ഉണ്ടോ എന്നു പലരും എന്നോടു ചോദിക്കാ റുണ്ട്.

ഒരു കർഷകന്റെനിലയിൽനിന്നു എനിക്കു പ്രധാനമായി പറയാനുള്ളതു ഈ വക സംഗതികളായതു കൊണ്ടാണ് ഞാൻഇതിനെപ്പററി ഗവ ണ്മെൻറിനെശ്രദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതു.

സർ, തിരുവിതാംക്രർ ഒരു കർഷകരാജ്യമാണ്. ഗവണ്മെൻറി ന്റെ ജീവനാഡി കൃഷിയാണ്. കൃഷിയെ പരിപുഷ്ടമാക്കുന്നതിന് ഗവ ണ്മെൻറിന്നിന്നും ഒരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു സൃഷ്ടിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു. ആ ഡിപ്പാ ർട്ടുമെൻറുകാർ ഉൾനാട്ടിലെ കർഷകർക്കുകൃഷിസംബന്ധമായ വിജ്ഞാന ങ്ങൾം സംകരിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകൊണ്ടു എന്തു പ്രയോ ജനമെന്നുഞാൻ ചോദിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. അതുകൊണ്ടു ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറി നെ കർഷകന്മാരാകുന്ന ഉൾനാട്ടുകാക്കു പ്രയോജനകരമാകുന്നവിധത്തിൽ അുക്കിത്തീർക്കുന്നതിന് ഗവണ്മെൻറു ശ്രദ്ധിക്കണമെന്ന് അപേക്ഷിച്ചു കൊള്ളുന്നു.

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MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kottarakara*): Sir, I do not congratulate the Government or the Financial Secretary for presenting to us a balanced budget. By a clever manipulation of accounts in the Account Office, it is quite possible for them to make both ends meet.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I do not know if you are justified in saying manipulation.

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kottarakara*): Sir, I say by a legerdemain in the Account Office.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I rule that the word 'legerdemain' is more objectionable.

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kottarakara*): It is also possible for the learned Financial Secretary to make a fine speech beginning with an exhortation on economic depression and ending with an assurance that our present financial position is unquestionably sound. I say that it would have been better expressed if the Financial Secretary had said that "All is right with the world while God is in heaven. We are not going to do anything for you; you may take care of yourself." But I ask the Government whether they have followed any sound financial principle in preparing this budget. Sir, we all know that the usual method of preparing a budget is to ascertain the needs and requirements of the people and find money to meet them. To me it appears, Sir, that this is a miserable miser's budget; a budget of drift and routine. It has not provided adequate funds for nation-building activities. It has not allotted any substantial amount for reproductive purposes.

Sir, I represent an agricultural constituency. My constituents and their brethren all over the country are in need of immediate relief. They are the persons who are hit very hard. The value of agricultural products has fallen so low that it is not even sufficient to meet the cost of cultivation. Their indebtedness has increased to an abnormal extent; their lands are sold in court auction for nominal prices; their lands and chattels are sold by revenue authorities for arrears of land tax. Big *jenmies* ruthless money-lenders and corrupt officials harass them with impunity. Our ryots are reputed for their proverbial patience. They may consume their own smoke without grumbling. But I assure the Government that discontent on account of acute economic distress is rampant in the country.

Sir, another problem which requires immediate solution is the problem of unemployment. There are several thousands of people, both educated and uneducated, who are now without work and they are on the verge of committing suicide on account of abject poverty and penury. Under the circumstances, I ask the Government in all seriousness what have they done for their amelioration. Our Government have issued a Press Communique recently which contains a catalogue of measures to relieve the distress of the people. A perusal of this list will provoke our laughter. The abolition of the pleadership

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class, the appointment of the Education Reforms Committee and the registration of a few acres of land at Konni for a few individuals are the sorts of relief given to the suffering millions of Travancore.

We will see what other Governments have done for helping the ryots in their countries. The Madras Government have remitted Rs. 60 lakhs in land revenue. The Mysore Government have decided to appoint a Committee to enquire into the nature and extent of the indebtedness of the people and to suggest ways and means to relieve them. The State of Bhavanagar, to which my learned friend Mr. Asan has referred, has set a splendid example to other States. The Japanese Government have calculated the cost of production and fixed the price per bushel of rice and have undertaken to purchase the whole quantity of rice and export them to foreign countries. Germany also fixed the cost of agricultural produce and they have undertaken to distribute liberal loans to ryots for nominal interest. So also the attention of other Governments is engaged in devising substantial measures for relieving the indebtedness of the agriculturists in their countries, but this Government is gloating upon a nominal, balanced budget. We all know that the budgets of several thousands of families in Travancore are in hopeless deficit. I draw the attention of Government to take effective steps to relieve the sufferings of the ryots.

I venture to make one or two suggestions to improve the miserable condition of the people. The first thing I would suggest is to conduct a comprehensive economic survey to find out the extent and enormity of rural indebtedness in the country.

Secondly I would suggest to organsie villages on economic basis, Government should undertake to start Panchayats in all *pakuthies* of the State. Local Panchayats, if properly worked, would help to improve their wealth, increase their literacy, promote civic life among them and encourage cottage industry.

Public works must be undertaken on a larger scale. Now the Government have been spending huge sums of money for public works in one or two centres. All our public works activities are concentrated at Trivandrum, and Pallivasal. Water Works, Rubber Factory and Electric Supply are laudable schemes. But they should be extended to the benefit of all people in Travancore. Public works such as opening of roads, digging of canals and construction of bridges and buildings should be undertaken by the Government in all important places in the State.

Government should see whether it is possible to cultivate tobacco in this country. It would have been a great relief to the agriculturists if crop-planning system of cultivation is introduced here.

Another suggestion I have to make is that factories for large scale production are to be established at suitable centres in the State. This will give employment to the unemployed and improve their financial

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condition. Organisations of trade depots and appointments of trade agents without sufficient industrial activities will not be advantageous to the country. Advertisement without adequate supply will be a failure. Organisation of factory industries for paper, rubber, sugar etc., will go to solve the acute problem of unemployment satisfactorily. To industrialise the country, Government should prepare a programme of planned economy of the resources of the State.

Organisation of a department for commerce is highly necessary. All development departments should be amalgamated and brought under the control of a Development Commissioner.

There should be countinuity of policy and co-ordination in working up these departments. The Sinking Fund for Railway can be safely utilised for these nation building activities.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): Sir, the presentation of a surplus budget in a period of acute economic depression is a paradox. There is no correspondence between the economic condition of the people and the state of finances of the Government. Government are trying to raise more revenue than is needed to meet the demands of the administration. There is absolutely no justification for taking a pie more than is needed for the administration, at a time of economic distress.

Coming to the Budget proposals, I am afraid there are no special features in it, as distinct from the features of the budget for the previous year, indicative of the economic condition of the people. The discussion of the budget proposals will be largely dominated by two problems, I mean the question of remission of land tax to land holders and the question of larger relief to the agricultural class. Government were pleased to grant a remisssion of 12½ per cent. on wet lands during this year. But, Sir, Government have not even provided for the same small measure of remission during the coming year. Of course, Government have recognised that depression exists even now and that the prices of commodities are very low. The Financial Secretary, in his speech introducting the Budget, says that this state of affairs has been taken into account in framing the Budget proposals. But, Sir, I fail to see any tangible evidence of this sympathy on the part of the Government towards the agricultural population who have been hit most severely by economic distress.

Coming to the question of larger relief to the agricultural class, it resolves itself into two heads, *viz.*, the question of improvement of prices of commodities and the question of indebtedness. I can well understand that our Government individually, by unilateral action, cannot effectively deal with the problem of improving the prices of commodities. But, Sir, our Government can do much in collaboration with the other States and the Government of India. They can take such steps as are calculated to improve and raise the prices of the articles produced in the State. Mr. Changanachery Paramesvaran Pillai

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gave specific illustrations as to how the prices of certain commodities could be improved. I mean rubber and cocoanut. The budget does not contain any proposals for improvement in this direction. Nor does the Government appear to have invited the co-operation of other States or the Government of India in this direction. Coming to the question of indebtedness, it will be admitted that the burden of their debts is pressing very heavily on the ryots. Mr. Damodaran Asan referred to the Bhavnagar Scheme of State liquidation of debts; and reference was made by some other member to the setting up of conciliation Boards to solve the problem. Our Government have to seriously consider schemes of this nature and solve the problem without delay. Otherwise, the problem will grow to alarming proportions and it will become impossible for Government to tackle it.

Now I shall make a few observations about some of the proposals adumbrated in the speech of the Financial Secretary. First of all, I shall refer to the question of the diversion of the Railway Sinking Fund. We shall accept the interpretation of Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer, Legal and Constitutional Adviser to His Highness the Maha Raja in this matter and accept the position that there is no legal obligation on the part of our Government to take over the Quilon-Shencotta Section on payment of the capital cost. It does not *ipso facto* follow from this position that we should decide *now* that the line shall not be purchased after the year 1945. There is no justification for rushing to the conclusion just now that, because the line is working at a loss, it will not be remunerative after 1945. Conditions may improve to a great extent and the working of the line may then prove to be very remunerative. We cannot say what exactly will be the economic condition of the State or the condition of the money market in 1945. It may be quite feasible or expedient to take over the line after 1945. What I suggest is that it is premature now to decide that we shall not purchase the line after 1945. We can defer the consideration of the question until 1945. I should not, however, be understood as suggesting that the schemes for which the Sinking Fund is diverted are unimportant. The Pallivasal Hydro-Electric Scheme for which the Fund is mainly diverted is full of possibilities for the economic regeneration of the State. I suggest that this scheme should be financed by loan funds. This is the opportune time for floating loans. You might know, Sir, that the Government of India have been steadily lowering their rate of interest on the loan funds raised by them. They have recently reduced their rate of interest to 3½ per cent. from 6½ per cent. which prevailed about three years ago and yet their floatation was successful. We can safely take the cue from the Government of India and float a loan on a 4 per cent. basis for financing the Pallivasal Scheme. I am sure it will be successful.

Coming to the revenue side, Government propose to raise a sum of Rs. 4·05 lakhs by way of toll revenue. Sir, I should say that this is an ugly feature of the Budget. Last year, during the Budget debate, Government gave an assurance on the floor of this House that they

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would seriously consider the question of abolition of toll gates. Instead of abolishing the gates, Sir, Government propose to establish more gates. I must say, Sir, that this House should not be treated in this fashion by the Government. I hope that Government will see their way to abolish the toll gates.

There is a provision in the Budget for the extension of the Alleppey Pier. Last year, Sir the Financial Secretary, in his budget speech, said that shipping facilities at Alleppey had been very much impaired owing to accretions of sand and that it was proposed to extend the pier at a cost of Rs. 80,000. Government obviously took that decision last year and I cannot see why they have not yet put the work through. The Financial Secretary, in his speech, this year, says that the extension of the pier is being taken up in 1110, as if to suggest that the decision has been made only now. The economic value of restoring shipping facilities at Alleppey does not appear to have been duly appreciated by the Government. Once shipping is diverted from Alleppey and established elsewhere it will be difficult to regain it. I hope Government will take up the work immediately in all seriousness.

Sir, there is evidence in the Financial Secretary's speech of a State policy of industrialisation of the country. I refer particularly to the passage wherein he envisages the possibility of establishing a paper factory in the neighbourhood of Alwaye. I trust that the Government will pursue the matter further and see their way to establish a factory at an early date or make it possible for a syndicate to establish one at no distant date.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): Sir, to a keen and serious student of the economics and finances of this State, the speech with which the Financial Secretary presented the Budget for the next financial year on last Tuesday, is really a promising one. Unlike on other occasions, he has made an honest and sincere attempt to consider the possibilities of the Budget as an instrument of economic policy of the State. Although he failed miserably to attempt to discuss what he was doing for the development and maintenance of trade and commerce of the country, he has, in unmistakable terms, Sir, told us, what part Government is going to play in the future industrial utilisation of the vast raw materials of this country.

Four years ago, the Travancore Banking Enquiry Committee pointed out to the Government the possibilities of opening a Rubber Factory in the State and I am happy to see to-day that the Government have decided to open such a factory. This decision on the part of the Government, Sir, drives away the old *laissez faire* or "let go" policy; and I am sure this is the beginning of a series of industrial activities and undertakings on the part of the Government. The possibilities of establishing such industries as pottery and ceramics, paper and rope making and the manufacture of vegetable ghee, margarin desiccated cocoanut and soaps are enormous in this country. But the forward move on the part of the Government in this new industrial policy entirely depends upon the success of the proposed

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factory. I venture to suggest that every possible care should be taken by the Government in regard to the four well-defined aspects of any factory industry, *viz.*, the location and the laying out of the factory, the purchase of raw materials, manufacture and marketing.

The decision of the Government not to purchase the Shencotta-Quilon Railway is a very wise step indeed. Those of us, who have studied the nature of the region along which the line passes through, must have realised that to purchase this line means committing a financial blunder of the first magnitude. I am aware that a section of the Press and some of my friends here, in this House, have already attacked the decision of the Government in this respect. And to them I can only point out that, if they had studied closely the topography of the places through which this line passes, the nature and volume of the human and goods traffic on this line and the enormous cost of maintenance and up-keep of this line and the other various connected matters, they would have become convinced that to purchase this line is to purchase a white elephant or a dead horse.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You need not answer the members and Press.

MR K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): Two members raised this question and I am mentioning that, Sir. My friend Mr. Thanu Pillai put a question when Mr. Parameswara Aiyar was discussing this question of the Shencottah-Quilon Railway line. He asked whether there is a separate depreciation fund set up for this purpose. Sir, I admit that the Railway is of the nature of a commercial undertaking. But there is much difference between this railway administration and the ordinary commercial administration.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESWARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Is it the member's view that interest should continue to be paid and that the railway should never be purchased?

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): Yes, Sir, and this should be treated just as England treats her national debt, the principle being that interest should be continued to be paid till the time the line is purchased. But more details about the depreciation question, I expect to be answered by the Financial Secretary. Even in case there is depreciation, Sir, there are renewals of permanent way and rolling stock more often than one can anticipate. But at the same time I want to point out, unlike in other commercial undertakings, the railway undertaking is a peculiar one in this way, that it has to provide renewals both for permanent and running stocks so that even admitting that there is a depreciation fund, this depreciation must be used for the renewals of those permanent and running stock.

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MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know from the member whether the member has any audited figures to come to the conclusion that the railway can never be a line of profitable undertaking?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You need not answer that question Mr. Karunakaran.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): The country must congratulate the Government on their wise and business-like decision in this matter and it cannot but feel ever grateful to Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyor for what he has done in this connection.

I must sincerely congratulate the Government for the ways in which they intend utilising the sinking fund amounting to 69 and odd lakhs of rupees. The Financial Secretary told us that Rs. 5 lakhs has been set apart for irrigation purposes.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): In what way they were pleading this expenditure to be met from is it to be earmarked from the Sinking Fund or the general revenues?

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): Sir, the decision of the Government to set apart 5 lakhs of rupees for the Irrigation Fund is indeed very desirable. For years past, the country was pleading to Government for ear-marking more and more funds for the development and improvement of the means of Irrigation.

The Quilon-Trivandrum Railway was constructed partly through borrowed capital and Government have made 14·59 lakhs of rupees by the issue of debentures. The Financial Secretary told us that Rs. 4·95 lakhs has been added to the debenture loan sinking fund: and as a result of this we find that the Government can fully pay off its debt now at any moment. That means, so far as the capital outlay of the Quilon-Trivandrum line is concerned, our Government is debt free. Some one raised the question yesterday that it would have been better for the Government not to have this fund set apart now towards this fund and Government could have waited till 1941. This criticism can be answered by a simple instance. If a debtor pays his debt to his creditor before the debt matures, the debtor's credit *ipso facto* gets enhanced. What is true of individuals, Sir, is also true of Governments in this respect. This is also another wise decision on the part of the Government, for which the Government fully deserves the country's appreciation.

During the discussion on the Pallivasal-Hydro Electric Scheme in one of the former Councils, I remember to have said that the Government will be obliged to raise a loan before the completion of the scheme. The country is now fortunate, Sir, that it has now 60 and odd lakhs of rupees for this gigantic and useful scheme, which is going to revolutionise our agricultural and Industrial methods.

An efficient and up-to-date agency to deal with the growing and complicated economic problems relating to our trade, commerce, tariffs, statistics and labour has become a necessity in our country to-day. The

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insufficiency and unreliability of our present statistics and the unscientific methods of its collection and compilation, more particularly relating to our various economic activities, have been pointed out to the Government many a time in and outside the Legislature. I am happy to see from the budget that the Government have now decided to depute a candidate for training under the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics at Calcutta, and I confidently hope, Sir, that, on his return, the Government will establish an efficient and proper agency to deal with our growing internal and external economic problems.

It is gratifying to note, Sir, that we have become a member of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. During and after the War, the propaganda machinery of the Government become an important one in every advanced and progressive ocuntr If I had time, I would have pointed out from the Government documents published by the Government of Ceylon what they are doing by means of propaganda against our interests. Sir, it is necessary to strengthen the Publicity section attached to the Secretariat.

When the Financial Secretary's exposition of the facts and figures was complete, the surplus of Rs. 2·06 lakhs proved to be considerably more than the public has been expecting; in fact, the country, Sir, was prepared to face a deficit budget. Every country today is attempting its level best to increase the purchasing power of its people. The only way in which the budgetary policy can increase the total available volume of purchasing power is not by means of a surplus, but by budgeting for a deficit and financing and the difference between revenue and expenditure either by the creation of a legal tender currency or by borrowing in such a way as to increase the total volume of credit outstanding. I am certain, Sir, neither of these will appeal to our Financial Secretary.

For the moment, however, Sir, the more important part of the Governmental policy should be to increase the productive capital of the country. If industry and trade were booming, this task would lose its urgency. But in the existing and peculiar circumstances, it has the double merit of being worth doing for its own sake and also of contributing to the restoration of that balance between the capital and consumption industries, the maintenance of which is one of the most essential conditions of prosperity.

The Government policy has always played a large part in the activities of the capital industries of the State and its responsibility for them is undoubtedly growing day by day. If the Financial Secretary would recognise that responsibility and absorb some of the idle savings of the Government and of the country in increasing the capital equipment of the country, he would make a far more important and potent contribution to our economic recovery and afterwards to our economic stability.

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[Mr. K. C. Karunakaran.]

Sir, if the estimates and anticipations of the Financial Secretary are not upset by any unforeseen events, I am confident.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*); Sir, I wish to say a few words about the conversion of the Railway Sinking Fund. My friend Mr. Karunakaran just now said that we must congratulate the Government on the step they have taken in regard to the question of the purchase of the Quilon-Shencotta Railway.

Sir, I do not want to dogmatise. I only wish to emphasise that, from the facts that have been placed before the House, one certainly cannot accept the soundness of the step taken by Government. The Railway was opened by the South Indian Railway Company Ltd., under agreement with the Secretary of State for India who acted on behalf of the Travancore Government. The Travancore Government, we are now given to understand, were not till recently in a position to know where exactly they stood and what their liability or their obligation was. They say that Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Aiyar interceded on behalf of the Government and induced the Government of India to accept the position that the Travancore Government is not under any liability to purchase the railway. The Government were not aware of the extent of the liability or the correct interpretation of the agreement to which they have been a party. This admission on their part also inclines me to doubt very much whether they are even now in a position to say exactly where they now stand. Apart from this, let me now see what our losses are on account of the Railway. We have invested about 80 lakhs of rupees on the Railway from Quilon to Trivandrum.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*):- Now the cost is Rs. 53 lakhs.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*); I speak of the Quilon Trivandrum Railway as it is at present, inclusive of the extension from Chackai to Thampanoor. I am not speaking of the Quilon-Trivandrum Railway as it was half a dozen years ago. What is it that you get in return for this investment of Rs. 80 lakhs? We get nothing and further we have to pay about half a lakh or one lakh of rupees annually to cover the full interest on the outlay for the Shencotta Quilon line. Thus on account of the Railway from Shencotta to Trivandrum we lose interest on the investment of Rs. 80 lakhs and pay in addition about a lakh annually. I wonder what my friends coming from outside Trivandrum, who object to the expenditure of public funds incurred in connection with the Trivandrum Water Supply scheme, have to say to this. The interest on 80 lakhs at say, 5 per cent, would be about 4 lakhs. This together with the amount we pay from year to year to make up the full amount of interest on the capital outly for the Shencotta-Quilon line would be about 5 lakhs. This is our annual lo Government admit that we are liable to pay this amount year aft

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year. The Financial Secretary has not explained how we can avoid this continuing loss. Cannot the Railway be taken over and run by our State? What will it cost? That is the question which the Financial Secretary has to answer. I want the House to consider these things. Is it not possible to work the Railway at a profit or at least at less loss than now? In this connection I have to ask the Government whether they have given up all ideas of constructing more railways in the State. The railways in the State may, I think, be taken over by the Government and worked by a Department of the State.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): Suppose we take this railway directly under our control, can we be independent of the Railway Board?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): That is a subsidiary matter. My question is whether the State is not competent to run the railways. Expenses for the whole South Indian Railway, I am told, are calculated and distributed uniformly over the whole length of it, the Travancore Section bearing its share. Is it quite just and equitable to us? Cannot our portion of the railway be run at less cost? I hope the Financial Secretary will make a clear statement on the matter.

MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (*Nominated*): Sir, the Budget estimates presented by the Financial Secretary show a surplus of Rs. 2·60 lakhs. It is gratifying to note that the Financial Secretary has presented a surplus budget in these days of acute economic depression, which, in his own words, is described as unprecedented alike in its extent, its duration and its intensity. This practice of presenting surplus budgets, has been going on for the last so many years and it has been commented upon as being no indication of the prosperity of the State. Anyhow funds have been made available in this budget, from the Railway Sinking Fund, for being utilised under various items. But one fails to see adequate attention being bestowed upon nation-building departments. What I would submit is that more amounts ought to have been allotted, at least for granting agricultural loans especially to the impoverished ryots, for promotion of industries and improvement of agriculture and so on. In these directions, the Financial Secretary's statement has fallen short of our expectations. Of course, there are some redeeming features in the budget such as the rubber factory, the aid proferred to the sugar industry, the irrigation branch and the proposal to open a paper factory at Alwaye or Thattakad. The proposal to depute a Special Officer to Calcutta for training in the compilation of statistics is an attempt in the right direction. It was only in the last session of the Assembly that the Government Benches admitted that their statistics in regard to the actual rubber-producing area are incorrect. So the representation from this side of the House has been accepted by the Government and it is a wise step. At this time of financial stringency and world wide economic depression, I would suggest that it is absolutely necessary to make an enquiry into the actual conditions prevailing in the rural parts of the State to ascertain the actual extent of indebtedness of the agriculturists, just as it has been done in Mysore. A

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[Mr. Abdur Rahiman Sahib]

committee of officials and non-officials should be appointed to go into the whole question and submit a report. Some years ago a resolution was moved in this House that an economic survey should be conducted. That is an important point for consideration by the Government. It was only in the last session of the Assembly that a resolution was passed to abolish the export duty on copra; and the Chief Secretary said that correspondence is going on regarding this matter and even reminders have been sent to the Government of India and that something will be done as early as possible. There is no reference at all with regard to that in the Budget speech.

Another most important matter that is to be considered by Government is that the pages of the Gazette are swelling with notifications of revenue sales and I understand that a recent circular has been issued, to do away with the notifications of the sale of properties for arrears of tax. That is not a happy state of affairs at all. Under Section 34 of the Revenue Recovery Regulation, a notification in the Gazette is absolutely necessary. It may be that in most cases the tenants may not be aware of the date of auction. As far as possible, ample opportunity and time should be given to the tenants to get the arrears cleared. The sale of properties should only be the last step. It is very hard that the properties are sold without giving even ample notice. I would once again urge that the resort to sell should only be the last step after exhausting all other remedies for realising the arrears.

It is gratifying to note that funds are provided to improve the Alleppey Pier. But what about the Trivandrum Port? The Trivandrum Port is becoming more and more popular and useful. The number of ships that anchor at the port is on the increase. There have been so many representations by the press, drawing the attention of Government to the fact that it is highly necessary to improve this port also in the interests of internal trade of the State. What is urgently required, at this time of depression, is to improve the commerce, industry and agriculture of the State.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): Sir, it is a pity that we members on this side of the House are not in a position to share the optimism and the high hopes entertained by the Financial Secretary in his estimate of the financial transactions for the coming year. Well, Sir, it is also a pity that, in these advanced times when new theories of taxation and public expenditure are resorted to in all the countries, we in Travancore are very very backward in framing our budget estimates. Sir, in civilised countries, any Government that have got the interests of the people committed to their charge at heart, frame their budgets mainly with a view to ameliorate the condition of the people, and to increase the material and non-material conditions of the people. But here in Travancore we do not find any such thing on the part of the Government in framing the budget. Well, Sir, the old theories of taxation and public expenditure are all

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exploded. In a system of sound finance, taxation is understood to be only a transfer of resources; and the main objects of the framers of the budget and the financiers is to put an end to the problem of poverty and unemployment, to relieve agricultural indebtedness and in one word to increase the economic condition of the people. Such a view, I am sorry to say, has not been taken by the Financial Secretary or by those who are responsible for framing the budget. Well, Sir, it is also a cardinal principle of modern finance that the best balance has to be struck between the dis-utility of taxation and the utility of spending. What is it that we find in our budget? Well, I do not say the Government, for the coming year, have imposed any new taxation, except of course opening some new toll gates in certain branch roads. But whatever it is, taxation is not to be condemned if the funds raised by the taxation are properly spent, if those funds are spent for the economic development of the country, for increasing the earning capacity of the people. In that case nobody will grumble against taxation. But we do not see any progressive views being adopted by our Government in our new budget. Well, Sir, just take one or two instances. It is said, in the Financial Secretary's statement. that one important variation, according to him, is the diversion of the Sinking Fund for purposes other than that for which the fund was originally intended. Well, Sir, in regard to this question it is my humble view that ourGovernment have not followed a sound policy. In matters of this nature, especially with regard to big schemes involving capital expenditure, to take a short range view is very very suicidal. In such a scheme involving capital expenditure, we ought to take a very long-range view. Well, Sir, the framing of budget annually is given up in other places. They now have even quinquennial budgets. In order to wait for results for a substantially longer period, we find budgets are being framed and the transactions are spread over a very long period. Now according to the old agreement it appears that we are to purchase the line by the year 1950. Now we are only in the year of grace 1934. Hence, several years we have to wait. We do not know what will be the financial position of the country a few years hence. Probably the conditions may change. The economic depression may cease and the finances of the Government may be more sound and then it will be more profitable to purchase the line, that is to exercise the option that is vested in us under the agreement. I cannot understand why the Government have taken such a decision all of a sudden. I am sorry to say that the door has been shut once for all. That option which was vested in us till now has been taken away. Our activities in the matter of railway construction are not going to stop with the Trivandrum-Quilon and Shencotta-Quilon lines. We have got other schemes in hand, for instance the extension of the line from Trivandrum to Nagercoil and that will make probably the line more profitable. There is the other line that is already surveyed and the arrangements will have to be made. That is the extension of the line to Ernakulam. Probably with the development of the Cochin Harbour, the line that is proposed to be

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opened up to Ernakulam will make even the existing lines more profitable. Now Sir, all hopes of further advance in this direction have been frustrated by the Government taking all of a sudden, rather precipitately, this decision.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*: Cannot the Government float a loan?

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : Yes, Sir, certainly. What I mean is that the option to purchase the line has been put an end to.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Does the member say that the option is taken away?

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : No, the Sinking Fund is to be utilised for other purposes; so if we are inclined to purchase the Railway by the year 1945, that fund should not be utilised for other purposes.

Government have already taken the decision that they are not going to exercise the option. That is what I find from the Financial Secretary's statement.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Will the member be pleased to read out that portion?

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : I shall just point out that portion.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Please mention the page.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilvaankod*): Page 2 of the Financial Secretary's statement reads thus :—"Thanks to the representations made by Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Aiyar, Legal and Constitutional Adviser to His Highness the Maharaja, on behalf of this Government, the Government of India have accepted the above views".

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): What does "the above views" indicate?

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : Just a few lines above he states :—

> "Subsequent investigations into the matter of our liability in connection with our Shencotta-Quilon line, have, however, disclosed that our liability is only for under-writing the guaranteed interest on the capital raised for the construction of the State Section of the Railway and not for the repayment of the capital and that, if and when the Government of India exercise the right to purchase the line, the Travancore Government, while having the option to purchase the section, will be under no obligation to do so."

Then further down, the views of the Government are given.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*) : Sir, I wish to know from the member whether it is the option that will be exercised by the Government.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : Yes, it is the option. By this what I mean is that Government will not be in a position to exercise the option. I do not doubt that for a moment.

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When Government proposed to divert the sinking fund for purposes other than that for which it was originally intended, it is quite clear that the option is still there. Well, Sir, it would have been far better to wait for some time more, say for better times, and then to come to a decision on this important matter. Anyhow, I am sorry to state that Government have taken a very unwise and rather precipitate action in the matter, in diverting the funds for other purposes.

Then, Sir, another point that I have to bring to the notice of this House is,—of course we have been crying hoarse,—the very costly system of administration that we have in Travancore over it. Well, Sir, with regard to British Indian Budget, the nationalist ranks in British India are however attacking the defence expenditure, the army expenditure that the people there have to meet. Here in Travancore, Sir, fortunately we have no such big item of Army expenditure, but in the place of a foreign garrison in the country, we, in Travancore, have an army of foreign officers garrisoning the country. It is high time, Sir, for us to make a departure from this policy. We have to depend upon our own resources, intellectual as well as otherwise. Well, Sir, some time ago when this new policy of bringing in very costly officers from outside was launched, we thought that at least with regard to our economic problems, we will have some salvation.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You have had enough time, Mr. Narayana Pillai.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): One minute more, Sir. I am sorry to say that after having waited for some months, we do not find our economic position and our financial condition has been advanced even an inch further.

Then with regard to the Army expenditure. Just as the Army expenditure in British India and other countries is the least reproductive, the various items of duplicated expenditure in Travancore that are being made year after year towards meeting the cost of the administration are also the least reproductive from the people's standpoint. Very little is being provided for nation-building activities, for social services and for other purposes which would enhance the people's financial condition.

Well, Sir, so far as the nature of the Budget is concerned, I am not prepared to say that it is the people's Budget. It is conceived and framed not in the interests of the people. Of course, there might be some truth in the learned Financial Secretary supporting his speech by saying that our financial condition is unquestionably sound. It may be so from Government's standpoint.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kaikulam I*): Sir, at the outset, I must observe that what the Financial Secretary has stated, *viz.*, that our financial position is 'unquestionably sound' and that the budget presented before the House is a surplus one is not correct. I do not wish to dwell at length on all the points, because many of my friends have touched some of those that I had wished to dwell upon.

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[Mr. K. R Elenkath.]

Sir, when I was discussing the Budget last year, I prophesied that some of the items which were estimated to bring increase of revenue were going to be proved false. Especially with regard to customs, I said, we were going to have a deficit budget. I emphasised the fact that, when the earning capacity of the people and their spending power were on a low ebb, it was not wise to expect an increase under the head of customs. Sir, this prediction has come to be true in that the revised estimate of the current year shows a diminution of two lakhs in the customs revenue.

With the short time at my disposal, I shall turn over the pages of the Financial Secretary's speech and make observations while passing from department to department leaving of course the minor departments for want of time.

Coming to the Land Revenue Department, I find that the increase in income estimated is that to be derived from the additional taxation. We passed a resolution in this Assembly of last year that 25 per cent. of the land tax should be remitted and Government ordered that 12½ per cent. may be reduced. No provision is made for the coming year in the budget on that account for the revenue expected is greater than the budget and revised estimates for the current year which include also a large amount of arrears collected.

Coming to the Settlement Officer, I find no provision is made for him in the next year's budget. I would like to know whether Rs. 17,700 and odd which the Government spent on the Special Officer and staff is to go without any advantage to the country. We, in south Travancore, are labouring under a vexed system of land tenure known as *Oodukur*. Not many months ago the Government took the initiative in calling together a meeting of land-holders to discuss the question. A Committee was appointed and very recently they have submitted a report. Sir, we have made definite suggestions in the report as to the ways and means for abolishing this system and have also suggested the appointment of a special officer to carry out the work which, we have urged, should be completed before the next census operations commence. I would earnestly appeal to the Government that a Special Officer be appointed to work out the scheme submitted by the Committee. So, I think, that amount provided for the Special Officer for the current year will have to be spent next year though no provision is now made for the said officer in the coming year's budget.

Next, coming to the Excise, I have to express my emphatic protest against taxation on beedi tobacco. Beedi-making is an industry which is very popular among the economically backward people; the general mass of the people have been put to very great hardship and loss by the introduction of the system of license fee for beedi tobacco. Instead of effectively checking the tobacco coming into the State by stealthily avoiding duty, the Excise Department has thought it fit and wise to impose a duty, from every person with whom or every house

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or shop where beedi tobacco is found. This shows that the Department is not efficiently running or at least not capable of effectively checking smuggling. I could not, Sir, but make that observation.

Then coming to the Audit and Accounts, I find that a strengthening of staff has been proposed. Of course the staff has to be strengthened but for an effective check of misappropriations etc., a receipt account and audit system as I have suggested at the meeting of the Public Accounts Committee has to be introduced. With regard to defalcation cases, Section V of the Account Code—Vol. I clearly sets down the procedure to be followed in the matter of defalcation by heads of departments and offices. We don't see that adequate punishments are meted out to the real culprits in such cases. The Code very specifically states the procedure to be adopted in such cases towards the realisation and recovery of the amount misappropriated from the officers responsible for the amount. In any case Government should not be a loser. Let anybody be at mistake. Government should see that he is properly dealt with and the money due is realised immediately from the head of the institution rather than allowing the matter to be under long correspondence as is being done with regard to the defalcation in the Science College.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I wish to know whether there is any case pending in regard to that matter. I wish to know whether there is any case going on in any court.

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): There is, Sir, a case going on in the court.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): Sir, another matter of importance which I have to bring to the attention of this House is that there is a general feeling in the country—and many of the newspapers have given vent to it that there is not only corruption in many of the departments but rampant immorality especially among certain responsible officers in the Education Department. I should say that no action is being taken by the Government against such officers. Sir, in these days when high culture and advancement has become the common property of the people of this country, people would not tolerate immorality in the society and especially among high officials whom they look up to as models of perfection. Sir, let them be at least as moral in their dealings as the ordinary man in the lower ranks of society. If these matters at least are not seriously dealt with, Sir, I ask how the Government can command respect of the people. There were days, Sir, when immorality was shunned by Government and officers were very seriously dealt with at the least suspicion of it. One of our Professors, Mr. Muthukumaraswami Pillai, was removed from the Education Department when there was the least suspicion of his moral character. I urge upon the Government the necessity for dealing with such people in the manner deserved.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: 'Immoral' is a very elastic word, Mr. Elenkath.

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MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): Yes, Sir, and I mean the worst of its type.

Then coming to the Industries Department, it is seen from the Budget that they are attempting to do something for the industrial development of the State. They do not give the actual figures with regard to the results of the various activities mentioned and one reading the speech of the Financial Secretary from outside the State will think that wonders are being worked here, while we within the State fail to see anything worth mentioning. The Government are not ashamed to make the Financial Secretary state in such a document as his budget speech that "the carpet making looms in the School of Arts have been repaired and got ready for work."

As regards the Co-operative Department, I should like to make a few observations especially in respect of the proposed temporary staff of 8 Co-operative Inspectors for whom provision is made in the next year's budget. The provision is, of course, made temporary; but I ask, Sir, whether this is essential. If the provision is essential, then I would say that it is inadequate. In the annual Administration Report of the Department for 1108, it is stated that, out of 1,759 Societies audited in the year, only 852 Societies have been audited by the Inspectors of the Department. There are at present 27 Inspectors or so and they have been able to audit only about half the number of Societies. Nearly half the number of societies had hitherto been audited by the Supervisors of the Unions. The Registrar says that now they have refused to send their Supervisors to help the Department in this work. This attitude of the Unions is due to the Registrar's unsympathising attitude towards the non-official co-operators. When his sole interest and activity ought to have been directed towards the betterment of the movement, he gives vent to his personal prejudices towards certain individual co-operators and unnecessarily interferes in their functions as co-operators.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You cannot, Mr. Elenkath, attach motives to persons in this respect.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): In my constituency, Sir, due to the interference of the Registrar who, disregarding the bye-laws, encroached on the powers of the Committee, an influential committee member of a bank was forced to resign his seat in the committee.

Then, Sir, coming to the Land Mortgage Bank, the reduction of interest to 6 1/2 per cent is indeed commendable. The interest can still be reduced to 4 per cent. or even 3 per cent. for at this time of economic depression the most fertile land fails to bring an yield to the value of 3 per cent. on the capital. Even at 3 per cent. it will yield good profit to the bank. I should like to bring all these facts before the Government for their serious consideration.

Now, Sir, with reference to the P. W. D., which is a most important branch of the administrative machinery of the Government, I have to point out to the House and the Government that the budget estimate

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for the next year for expenses for improvement of communication etc., is Rs. 28,81,900, whereas the revised estimate for the same is Rs. 32,72,400. This difference of nearly Rs. 4 lakhs we cannot look at with any amount of satisfaction ; for the Government has applied its axe where it ought not to, especially at this time of acute economic depression. To this extent the needs of the rural areas will have to suffer. In this respect the Government cannot excuse itself. Then again even out of this scanty amount, Rs. 1,03,464 is to meet the charges for electric installation of Government buildings etc. It has to be noted that last year only Rs. 62,800 was spent under this head.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Mr. Elenkath, your time is up.

MR. K. M. KRISHNAN (*Ambalapuzha II*) : സർ, തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ സ്ഥിതിഗതികളെപ്പറ്റി നല്ലതുപോലെ അറിയുവാൻ പാടില്ലാത്ത ഒരു വിദേശീയന്റെ മുമ്പാകെ നമ്മുടെ ഫൈനാൻഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറി അവതരിപ്പിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ആ ബഡ്ജറു സമർപ്പിക്കുന്നതായാൽ നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യം അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു ഒരു ശ്രീവാഴ്ചകൊടുത്തതെന്നായാണെന്നു തോന്നിപ്പോകാനിടയുണ്ടു. എന്നാൽ ഇവിടത്തെ സ്ഥിതിഗതികളും നല്ലതുപോലെ അറിയാവുന്ന ഈ നാട്ടുകാക്കാകട്ടെ, ആ അഭിപ്രായമുണ്ടാകാനിടയില്ല. ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ നഷ്ടമിരിപ്പുള്ള ഒരു ബഡ്ജറാണിതു്. ഈ നീക്കിയിരിപ്പു വരുത്തുന്നതിനുമുൻപു് പല കാര്യങ്ങളും അദ്ദേഹം നോക്കേണ്ടതായിരുന്നു. ഒന്നാമതായി ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ കഷ്ടസ്ഥിതിയെപ്പറ്റി അദ്ദേഹം ആലോചിക്കണം. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ സാമ്പത്തികാധഃപതനംമൂലം ഇവിടത്തെ ജനങ്ങൾ എത്രമാത്രം ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകൾ അനുഭവിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതിനെപ്പറ്റി ശരിയായവിധം നമ്മുടെ ഗവണ്മെന്റു അറിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. കൃഷിക്കാരുടെ ഇടയിൽ നിന്നും വരുന്ന ഞങ്ങളെപ്പോലെയുള്ള ആളുകൾക്കു് അവരുടെ സങ്കടങ്ങളും കഷ്ടപ്പാടുകളുമെല്ലാം നേരിട്ടു കണ്ടറിയാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടു്. കരം ഇളവുചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കണം, കരംകൊടുക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള കാലാവധി നീട്ടിക്കൊടുക്കണം, കണ്ടുകൃഷിനിലങ്ങൾ പന്ത്രണ്ടാംതരത്തിൽനിന്നും പതിമൂന്നാംതരമാക്കികൊടുക്കണം, എന്നെല്ലാം ജനങ്ങൾ സങ്കടം പറയുമ്പോൾ, കരം ഈടാക്കുന്ന വിഷയത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെന്റു കർശനമായ കർശനനടപടികൾ നടത്തുകയാണു ചെയ്യുന്നതു്. ഇതെല്ലാംകൂടി ആലോചിച്ചാൽ നമ്മുടെ ഗവണ്മെന്റിനു കർഷകന്മാരുടെനേർക്കു യാതൊരു സ്നേഹവുമില്ലെന്നു തീച്ചയായും പറയാൻകഴിയും. നാല്പത്തയ്യായിരം രൂപാ കഴിഞ്ഞ ആണ്ടിലെ കുടിശ്ശികഇനത്തിൽനിന്നും കർശനനടപടികൾ നടത്തി ഈടാക്കീട്ടുള്ളതായി കാണുന്നു. ഇപ്രകാരം കർശനനടപടികൾ നടത്തി സാധുക്കളായ ജനങ്ങളുടെ പക്കൽനിന്നും കരം ഈടാ-

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കണ്ണ നയം തീരെ അനാശാസ്യമാണ്. ഡിമാൻറനോട്ടീസുപടി ഇനത്തിൽതന്നെ എത്ര വമ്പിച്ച ഒരു തുകയാണ ഗവണ്മെൻറ്. ഈടാക്കി വരുന്നതെന്നുള്ളതോർക്കുമ്പോൾ ഇതിൽപരം സങ്കടകരവും കഷ്ടതരവുമായ ഒരു നടപടി ജനങ്ങളുടെമേൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു ചെയ്യുവാൻ കാണുമെന്നതോന്നുന്നില്ല. ഇങ്ങനെ ജനങ്ങളെ ഇടിച്ചുപിഴിഞ്ഞു കരം ഈടാക്കുക എന്നുള്ള നയം വളരെ കഷ്ടമാണെന്നുള്ള ഒരു വിചാരമെങ്കിലും ഫൈനാൻഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറി അവർകൾക്കുണ്ടായിരിക്കേണ്ടതായിരുന്നു. അങ്ങനെ ഒരു വിചാരം അദ്ദേഹത്തിനുണ്ടായിരുന്നാൽ, നിശ്ചയമായും അവരുടെ സംരക്ഷണത്തിനും അവരുടെ ദുരിതനിവാരണത്തിനും ഓരോ സാംബ്യകാം മുന്തവണത്തെ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ കൊള്ളിക്കുമായിരുന്നു: അതു ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ല.

നമ്മുടെ മുമ്പാകെയിരിക്കുന്ന ബഡ്ജറു നോക്കിയാൽ പല ഇനങ്ങളിലുമുള്ള ചിലവുകാം കുറയ്ക്കേണ്ടതായിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു പറയാൻകഴിയും. ഉദാഹരണത്തിനായി ചില സൂചനകൾ ഞാൻ പറയാം. ചില അവശ്യമില്ലാത്ത വലിയ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾക്കായി ബഡ്ജറിൽ പണം കൊള്ളിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതിനെപ്പറ്റി പല മെമ്പറന്മാരും ഇവിടെ സൂചിപ്പിച്ചു കഴിഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. ആ കൂട്ടത്തിൽ, പോലീസ് അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് സൂപ്രണ്ടുദ്യോഗം എല്ലാംതന്നെ നിറുത്തൽചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണ് എന്നാണ് എൻറെ അഭിപ്രായം. അവശ്യമില്ലാത്ത ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ നിറുത്തൽചെയ്യുന്നതായാൽ ഏതാണ്ട് ആറുലക്ഷം രൂപയോളം നമുക്കു ലാഭംവരും. കഴിഞ്ഞതായാണ്ടിലും ഈ ആണ്ടിലും ആയി സൃഷ്ടിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന രണ്ടുദ്യോഗങ്ങളും നിറുത്തൽചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണ്. ഗയിം വാർഡൻ, ഗസ്റ്റ് ഹൌസ് ഡയറക്ടസ് എന്നീ രണ്ടുദ്യോഗങ്ങളും വെറും അലങ്കാരത്തിനുവേണ്ടി മാത്രം സൃഷ്ടിക്കപ്പെട്ടുവെന്നല്ലാതെ അവകൊണ്ടു സ്റ്റേറിനു വലിയ പ്രയോജനമൊന്നുമില്ല. ഗസ്റ്റ് ഹൌസിൻറെ ഭരണം ഏതു തരത്തിൽ നടത്തിയിരുന്നുവെന്നു നമുക്കെല്ലാവർക്കും അറിയാവുന്നതാണ്. മുമ്പിലത്തെ ഭരണംകൊണ്ടു പറയത്തക്ക യാതൊരു ദൃഷ്ടിയും നമുക്കു കാണാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ല. എന്നിട്ടും ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളെ പുതിയതായി സൃഷ്ടിച്ച്, ഉദ്യോഗത്തിൽനിന്നും പിരിഞ്ഞ ആളുകളെ വീണ്ടും ഉദ്യോഗത്തിൽ വയ്ക്കുന്നതു വാസ്തവത്തിൽ വളരെ സങ്കടകരമാണ്. ജനങ്ങൾ ദുരിതാധിക്യം അനുഭവിച്ചുവരുന്ന കഷ്ടതകൾക്കിടയിൽ ഇമ്മാതിരിയുള്ള പുതിയ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ സൃഷ്ടിച്ച് ഗവണ്മെൻറു പണം ചിലവാക്കാതിരിക്കുവാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറു പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കേണ്ടതാകുന്നു.

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ഇൻഡസ്ട്രിയൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽനിന്നും പുറപ്പെടുവിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഫ ഫ ഠ വ ലെ റിപ്പോർട്ടുകൊണ്ടു ചില സംഗതികൾ നമുക്കു കാണാൻ കഴിയും. Clay Deposits-നെ സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള പരീക്ഷണങ്ങളെല്ലാം തോന്നയ്ക്കലും സമീപസ്ഥലത്തുമാണു നടത്തിയതു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് വലിയ പ്രയോജനമുണ്ടായില്ല എന്നുമാത്രമല്ല, അതുനിമിത്തം ഗവൺമെൻറിനു ഒരു വലിയ സംഖ്യ ചിലവും വന്നിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഇതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു ഫ ഫ ഠ വ-ലെ റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽ ഇങ്ങനെയാണു പറയുന്നതു്.

"The investigation of China clay deposits at Thonnakkal and its neighbourhood, and of the Uranium bearing green mineral at Kuttakuzhi and prospecting of mica near Vamanapuram were done by him during the year."

ഇതുകൊണ്ടു് ശരിയായി ആലോചിച്ചും വേണ്ട കാര്യപരിപാടി തയാറാക്കിയുമല്ല ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു പ്രവേശിച്ചതെന്നു കാണാൻ കഴിയും. ക്രൂഡായതു, തെങ്ങിൻകരുപ്പട്ടിയിൽനിന്നും പഞ്ചസാര ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനും ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു ചില പരീക്ഷണങ്ങളും നടത്തുകയുണ്ടായി. കുറെ ക്രൂഡതൽ പണവും സമയവും അതിനുവേണ്ടി ചെലവുചെയ്തുവെന്നുള്ളതിൽ കവിഞ്ഞൊരു പ്രയോജനവും അതുകൊണ്ടുണ്ടായിട്ടില്ല. ഇതേ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് ആ റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതു് ഇങ്ങനെയാണു്.

"Investigations on cocoanut jaggery conducted last year were continued this year also. The chief handicap in the way of utilising it in the manufacture of sugar is its very high cost and the difficulty of obtaining it in large quantities. From enquiries made it is learnt that it is not likely that cocoanut jaggery can be had at a price comparable with that of palmyra jaggery and it is doubtful whether, under the circumstances, one will be disposed to entertain much hope of obtaining a reinforcement of raw material from this quarter for the manufacture of sugar."

ഇനി എനിയ്ക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു് Land Mortgage Bank നെപ്പറ്റിയാണു്. ജനങ്ങളുടെ കടത്തിനു് ഒരു നിവാരണമുണ്ടാക്കേണ്ടതിനാണല്ലോ Land Mortgage Bank സ്ഥാപിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു്. നേരെ മറിച്ചാണു് അനുഭവം. ഒരു വസ്തുവിൻെറ ചാർജ്ജു തീർക്കുന്നതിലേക്കു വേണ്ടി ഒരു കടത്തിനപേക്ഷിച്ചാൽ രണ്ടു കൊല്ലത്തോളം അതിനെപ്പറ്റി നടപടികൾ നടത്തിക്കഴിഞ്ഞശേഷം "അപേക്ഷ താല്ക്കാലികമായച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇന്ന ആണ്ടു ഇന്നമാസം ഇത്രാംതിയതിയിലെ ആ വസ്തുവിൻെറ കടമെല്ലാം തീർത്തായ ഒരു ഒഴിവുമുറി ഹാജരാക്കിക്കൊള്ളണം" എന്ന നോട്ടീസ് അയയ്ക്കും. ഒഴിവുമുറി കിട്ടുന്ന വസ്തുവിൻെറ കടം തീർക്കാനുള്ള പണം. ആ പണം കിട്ടാതെ അതിൻെറ ഒഴിവുമുറി ഹാജരാക്കുന്നതു് എങ്ങനെയാണു് എന്നു് മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല.

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MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*) അങ്ങനെ ഒരു നോട്ടീസ് കാണിക്കുവാൻ തയാറുണ്ടോ?

MR.K. M. KRISHNAN (*Ambalapuzha II*) : ഒരു നോട്ടീസു ഞാൻ കാണിക്കാം.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): സാധാരണയായി അങ്ങനെ നോട്ടീസുകാം കിട്ടാറുണ്ടോ?

MR. K. M. KRISHNAN (*Ambalapuzha II*): ഫൈനാൻഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറി നിർബന്ധമായി ആവശ്യപ്പെടുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ ആ നോട്ടീസു കാണിക്കുവാൻ ഞാൻ തയ്യാറാണ്. ജനങ്ങളുടേ സഹായത്തിനു മറുവിധത്തിൽ പണം ഉണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊടുക്കുവാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു കഴിയുകയില്ല എങ്കിൽ ചില കാര്യങ്ങളെങ്കിലും ഗവണ്മെൻറു ചെയ്താൽ മതിയാകുമായിരുന്നു. പുകയിലകൃഷി നടത്തുവാൻ ജനങ്ങളെ അനുവദിക്കുകയോ, അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറുതന്നെ നടത്തുകയോചെയ്താൽ ആ ഇനത്തിൽ ഒരു നല്ല ആദായം ജനങ്ങൾക്കും ഗവണ്മെൻറിനും ലഭിക്കുന്നതാണ്. ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധ ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ വേണ്ടുംവണ്ണം പതിയുമെന്നു വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു.

MR. M. N. NAIR (*Kottayam I*) : Sir, I shall minimise my time, if you kindly allow me to speak in Malayalam.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : You raised that point on some former occasion. But now you are permitted to speak in Malayalam.

MR. M. N. NAIR (*Kottayam I*): Thank you, Sir.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : May I say that the member is not quite in order if he thanks the House.

MR. M N. NAIR (*Kottayam I*): സർ, കഴിഞ്ഞകൊല്ലവും മലയാളത്തിൽ പ്രസംഗിക്കണമെന്നെനിക്കാഗ്രഹമുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ അന്നത്തെ എന്റെ അപേക്ഷ വിഫലമായിപ്പോയതേയുള്ളൂ. അപ്പോൾ ഞാൻ മലയാളഭാഷയുടെ നിർഭാഗ്യത്തെപ്പറ്റി എന്തൊ ചിലതു സംസാരിക്കാൻ തുടങ്ങി. അതു് അസംബ്ലിനടപടികൾക്കു വിരുദ്ധമാണെന്നുപറഞ്ഞതിനാൽ, ഇന്നു മാതൃഭാഷയായ മലയാളത്തിൽ സംസാരിക്കുവാൻ എനിക്കനുവാദം തന്ന പ്രസിഡണ്ടിനോടു നന്ദിപറയുന്നതും കൗൺസിൽനടപടിക്കു വിപരീതമായിവന്നേക്കുമെന്നു ഞാൻ സംശയിക്കുന്നു. എങ്കിലും മലയാളഭാഷയ്ക്കുവേണ്ടി ഒരു കൃതജ്ഞത പറയാതെ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Go on with your speech, Mr. M. N. Nair.

MR. M. N. NAIR (*Kottayam I*): സർ, ബഡ്ജറിനെപ്പറ്റി എനിക്കുള്ള അഭിപ്രായം മുറവും ചുരുക്കമായിപ്പറയാൻ ഞാൻ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നു.

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സാമ്പത്തികാധഃപതനംമൂലം സകല ഗവണ്മെൻറുകളും അവരവരുടെ ബഡ്ജറുകൾ വരവു ചെലവുകളെ സമീകരിച്ചുണ്ടാക്കാൻപോലും വിഷമിക്കുന്ന ഈ കാലത്തു് തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ധനകാര്യമന്ത്രി നമ്മുടെ മുമ്പാകെ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ബഡ്ജറിൽ വർഷാവസാനത്തിൽ ൧,൯൦,൦൦൦ത്തിൽപരം രൂപാ മിച്ചംവരുമെന്നുകൂടി കാണിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതിൽ നിർവ്യാജം സന്തോഷിക്കാനേ അവകാശമുള്ളൂ. എന്നാൽ മിച്ചംവരുന്നുന്നബഡ്ജറിനെപ്പറ്റി രണ്ടു വിധത്തിലുള്ള അഭിപ്രായങ്ങൾ നാം കേട്ടുകഴിഞ്ഞു. മിച്ചംവക്കുന്നതാണു ശ്ലാഘനീയമെന്നൊരുകക്ഷിയും കടംവാങ്ങിയും വേണ്ടകാര്യങ്ങൾക്കൊക്കെ ചെലവു ചെയ്യണമെന്നു മറെറാരു കക്ഷിയും. എന്നാൽ ഒരു ബഡ്ജറിനെ ശ്ലാഘിക്കേണ്ടതു് അതു മിച്ചത്തിലോ കടത്തിലോ അവസാനിക്കുന്നതെന്നു നോക്കീട്ടല്ല. ചെലവുകളെ ഏതെങ്കിലും വിധത്തിൽ ചുരുക്കി വരവിൽ ഒരു മിച്ചം കാണിക്കുന്നതു് അശേഷം ശ്ലാഘനീയമല്ല. മിച്ചമാണെങ്കിൽ അതെങ്ങിനെ വരുത്തി, കടമാണെങ്കിൽ അതെന്തിനുവേണ്ടിവരുത്തി എന്നു നോക്കീട്ടാണു് ബഡ്ജറിനെപ്പറ്റി അഭിപ്രായം പറയേണ്ടതു്. സാമാന്യജനങ്ങളുടെ സംരക്ഷണത്തേയും ക്ഷേമൈശ്വര്യത്തേയും മുൻനിറുത്തിയാണോ ബഡ്ജറു തയാറാക്കീട്ടുള്ളതെന്നാണു് പ്രധാനമായിനോക്കാനുള്ളതു്. അതു തോതുവച്ചുനോക്കിയാൽ ഈ ബഡ്ജറിൽ ശ്ലാഘനീയമായി വളരെയൊന്നും കാണാനില്ല. എന്നാൽ മാമൂൽ അനുസരിച്ചു് മിച്ചംകാണിക്കുന്ന ഒരു ബഡ്ജറു് ഫാജരാക്കിയതിൽ നമ്മുടെ ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽസെക്രട്ടറി നിശ്ചയമായും ശ്ലാഘനീയൻതന്നെ. ഇങ്ങനെയല്ലാതെ ഇതിനു മുമ്പുള്ള ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറിമാരും ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ല. എന്നാൽ കാലംമാറുംതോറും ഭരണസംബന്ധമായ അഭിപ്രായങ്ങൾക്കും മാറ്റംവന്നുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. സമാധാനസംരക്ഷണത്തിനും സിവിൽഭരണത്തിനും മറ്റും പണം ചെലവിടേണ്ടതത്യാവശ്യം തന്നെയെങ്കിലും അതുകൊണ്ടു തൃപ്തിപ്പെട്ടാൽ മതിയാകുന്നതല്ല. രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ ശാശ്വതമായ സാമ്പത്തികാഭിവൃദ്ധിയെ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചാണു് കൂടുതൽ പണം ചെലവാക്കേണ്ടതു്. പണ്ടത്തെപ്പോലെ സിവിൽഭരണം നടത്തുന്നതോ, നികുതിപിരിക്കുന്നതോ, അതുപോലെയുള്ള മറു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടമെൻറുകളിലോ അല്ല നമ്മുടെ ശ്രദ്ധ ഇന്നു പ്രധാനമായി പതിയുന്നതു്. രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ ഐശ്വര്യത്തേയും രാജ്യവാസികളുടെ ആരോഗ്യത്തേയും രക്ഷിക്കുകയും അഭിവൃദ്ധിപ്പെടുത്തുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നതുകൊണ്ട കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടമെൻറു്, വ്യവസായഡിപ്പാർട്ടമെൻറു്, ഇല്ലുക്കിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടമെൻറു്, സഹകരണഡിപ്പാർട്ടമെൻറു്, റൂൾ

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[Mr. M, N. Nair.]

ത്ത് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ് ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളാണ് ജനങ്ങളുടെ ആലോചനയ്ക്കിന്ന പ്രധാനമായി വിഷയീഭവിക്കുന്നത്. ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകൾക്കു തിരുവിതാംകൂർഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ബഡ്ജറിൽ ഇന്നും അപ്രധാനമായ ഒരു സ്ഥാനമേ കല്പിച്ചുകാണുന്നുള്ളൂ. ആണ്ടു തോറുമുള്ള വരവിൽ ഒരു ചെറിയ അംശംമാത്രമല്ലാതെ ധാരാളം പണം അവകാശപ്പെടുവേണ്ടി ബഡ്ജറിൽ കൊള്ളിക്കുന്നതായികാണുന്നില്ല. അങ്ങനെചെയ്തിരുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ പൊതുജനക്ഷേമത്തിനുതകുന്ന കൃഷിവാണിജ്യവ്യവസായങ്ങൾ രാജ്യത്തിൽ വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ച് ജനങ്ങളെ സാമ്പത്തികാധഃപതനംനിമിത്തമുള്ള ദുരിതങ്ങളിൽനിന്നു രക്ഷിക്കാമായിരുന്നു. രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ ഐശ്വര്യവർദ്ധകമായ ഇത്തരം ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളോടുപോലും ഇന്നു ജനങ്ങൾക്കു കൂടുതൽ കൂടുതൽ അതൃപ്തിയാണ് ഉണ്ടായിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നത്. ഇപ്പോൾതന്നെ കാർഷികവ്യവസായോല്പന്നങ്ങൾക്കു ശരിയായ വിലകിട്ടുന്നതിനുള്ള കമ്പോളങ്ങൾ കണ്ടുപിടിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ടെഡിഡ് ഏജൻറിനെ നിയമിച്ചതിലും നമ്മുടെ കൂടിൽവ്യവസായ ഫലങ്ങളെ വില്പനക്കായി പ്രദർശിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള സെയിൽസ്ഡിപ്പോ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയതിലും ഈ സഭയിലെ ബഹുമാന്യ അംഗങ്ങളിൽ ചിലർ അതൃപ്തി പ്രകടിപ്പിച്ചു കഴിഞ്ഞു. അതുപോലെതന്നെ കാർഷികരാജ്യമായ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ഒരു കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ് വച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതിനെപ്പറ്റിയും ആക്ഷേപങ്ങൾകേട്ടു. ഈ അതൃപ്തികൾക്കൊക്കെയുള്ള കാരണം ഇവയുടെ ആവശ്യകതയെപ്പറ്റി അംഗങ്ങൾക്കു ബോദ്ധ്യമില്ലാഞ്ഞിട്ടല്ല. ഇതുനാളായിട്ടും അവയെക്കൊണ്ടുള്ള പ്രയോജനം പറയത്തക്കവിധത്തിൽ അനുഭവപ്പെടായ്കയാലാണ്. രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ ഐശ്വര്യത്തിനുതകുന്ന നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ നടപ്പിൽവരുത്തുന്നതിനാവശ്യമുള്ള പണം ലോഭംകൂടാതെ നീക്കിവയ്ക്കാതെ മാമൂലനുസരിച്ചുമാത്രം ബഡ്ജറുതയാറാക്കിയാൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ് മേധാവികൾ വിചാരിച്ചാൽപോലും ഒന്നുംസാദ്ധ്യമല്ല. ഒരു മാന്യമെമ്പർ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചതുപോലെ ഈയാണ്ടത്തെ ബഡ്ജറിൽ ഒരു ചെറിയമാറ്റം കാണുന്നുണ്ട്. സാമ്പത്തികാധഃപതനം തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ഇന്നും കഠിനമായിത്തന്നെനില്ക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്ന് ഫൈനാൻഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറി സമ്മതിച്ചതുതന്നെ ഒരു "ഭാവിശ്രേയഃപിളുനശകുനമായി" ഗണിക്കപ്പെടേണ്ടതാണ്. അതിനേയുംക്ലിഷ്ടികരുതിയാണ് ഈ ബഡ്ജറു് രൂപീകരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതെന്നു പറഞ്ഞുകാണുന്നു. ഭ്രസപ്രസ്തുജാമ്യബാങ്കിലെ പലിശ ഏഴു ശതമാനത്തിൽനിന്നും മേലാൽ നാലു ശതമാനമായി കുറച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു് കർഷകരെ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചു ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള

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ഒരു ആനുകൂല്യംതന്നെ. ആലുവായിലോ തട്ടയ്ക്കാട്ടോ ഒരു കടലാസു നിർമ്മാണശാല സ്ഥാപിക്കുവാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതും ഭാവിയിലേ പ്രയോജനപ്പെടുകയുള്ളുവെങ്കിലും നല്ലതുതന്നെ. എന്നാൽ ഈ രാജ്യത്ത് ഒരു moratorium തന്നെ നടപ്പാക്കി ഈ സാമ്പത്തികാധഃപതനം തീരുന്നതുവരെ അധമർണ്ണന്മാരുടെ കടത്തിനായി അവർക്കുള്ള വസ്തുക്കളെല്ലാം വിറ്റെടുക്കുന്നതിന് ഉത്തമർണ്ണന്മാർക്ക് അവകാശം കൊടുക്കുന്നനിയമങ്ങളെ എല്ലാം നിറുത്തിവെയ്ക്കുണമെന്നുപോലും കഴിഞ്ഞ ബഡ്ജറുകാലത്തു ഒരു മാന്യമെംബർ ഒരു പ്രമേയം അവതരിപ്പിച്ചു വാദപ്രതിവാദംചെയ്ത അവസരത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള കൃഷിവ്യവസായവായ്പകളുടെ തവണകൾ ഈടാക്കുന്നതിനും നികുതിപിരിക്കുന്നതിനും ഉള്ള കാലാവധികൾ നീട്ടിക്കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതിന്റെ അത്യാവശ്യകതയെപ്പറ്റി ധാരാളം പ്രതിവാദിക്കപ്പെട്ടിരുന്നു. ഇന്നു കരംകൊടുക്കുന്നതിനുപോലും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാതെ തീർന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. കരം കൊടുക്കാത്തവരെല്ലാം രാജ്യദ്രോണസംബന്ധമായ കാര്യങ്ങളിൽ യാതൊരറിവുമില്ലാത്തവരാണെന്നു ധരിക്കരുതു്. ഏതാണ്ടു നാലഞ്ചുകൊല്ലങ്ങൾക്കുമുമ്പു് തിരുവിതാംകൂർ സംസ്ഥാനത്തെ ബഡ്ജറിൽ വർഷംപ്രതി പതിനഞ്ചും ഇരുപത്തിയഞ്ചും മുപ്പത്തിയഞ്ചും ലക്ഷം രൂപാവീതം മിച്ചം വന്നുകൊണ്ടിരുന്നിട്ടും പതിവുപോലെ കരംകൊടുക്കുന്നവിഷയത്തിൽ ഈ രാജ്യവാസികളിൽ ആരുംതന്നെ വൈമുഖ്യം കാണിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. അതിനാൽ ഇപ്പോൾ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു കരംകൊടുക്കുന്നതിനുപോലും യഥാർത്ഥമായ വൈഷമ്യങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടെന്നുള്ളകാര്യം അറിയേണ്ടതാണു്. കഴിഞ്ഞ കൊല്ലം ൧൨ ൽ ശതമാനം ൨൪ ശതമാനം എന്നീക്കണക്കിൽ കരംകുറക്കുന്നതിനും കരത്തിനുള്ള കാലാവധി നീട്ടിക്കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനും നിർമ്മതിച്ച ഗവണ്മെൻറു് ഈ കൊല്ലത്തിൽ ആവക യാതൊരാനുകൂല്യങ്ങളും ചെയ്യാതെ സാമ്പത്തികാധഃപതനം ഇപ്പോഴും കഠിനമായിത്തന്നെ നില്ക്കുന്നുവെന്നും അതിനേക്കുടിക്കരുതിയാണു് ബഡ്ജറു് രൂപവൽക്കരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതെന്നും പറഞ്ഞാൽ അതിൽ അത്മാർത്ഥതയുണ്ടോ എന്നു ഞാൻ ചോദിക്കുന്നു.

ചെലവു ചുരുക്കുന്നതിനായി ഈ അടുത്തകാലത്തു് ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നതു്, ഇംഗ്ലീഷിൽ 'Penny wise and pound foolish' എന്നു പറയുന്നതരത്തിലുള്ള ഒരു വ്യയസ്സങ്കോചനംതന്നെയാണു്. കരക്കുടിശ്ശികക്കായി ലേലത്തിൽ വില്ക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള വസ്തുക്കളുടെ എണ്ണം ക്രമാതീതമായി വർദ്ധിക്കുന്നതിനാൽ ഗസറ്റടിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള

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[Mr. M. N. Nair.

തുക ലാഭിക്കുവാനായി മൂന്നേക്കറിൽകുറഞ്ഞ വിസ്തീർണ്ണമുള്ള വസ്തുക്കൾ ലേലത്തിനുവന്നാൽ ഗസറിൽ പരസ്യപ്പെടുത്തേണ്ടതില്ലെന്നു തീർച്ചപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുള്ളതായി അറിയുന്നു. അങ്ങിനെ നിശ്ചയിച്ച ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്കീനാട്ടിനെപ്പറ്റിയും ഇവിടത്തെ ജനങ്ങളുടെ ധനസ്ഥിതിയേപ്പറ്റിയുമുള്ള തെറ്റിദ്ധാരണ എത്ര ഭീമമാണെന്നു ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞറിയിക്കേണ്ടതായിട്ടില്ല. ഈ നാട്ടിലുള്ളവരിൽ മിക്കവർക്കും വിശേഷിച്ച് താഴ്ന്നപ്രദേശത്തു താമസിക്കുന്നവരിൽ ആർക്കുംതന്നെ മൂന്നേക്കർവിസ്തീർണ്ണമുള്ള പുരയിടങ്ങളും ഉള്ളതായി എനിക്കറിവില്ല.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): മൂന്നേക്കറിൽ കുറഞ്ഞസ്ഥലമുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലില്ലെന്നുള്ളത് മെമ്പർക്കറിയാമോ?

MR. M. N. NAIR (*Kottayam I*): എനിക്കു നിശ്ചയമില്ല. കോട്ടയംതാലൂക്കിൽ കുമരകം എന്ന പ്രദേശമാണ് എന്റെ സ്വദേശം. അവിടെ മൂന്നേക്കറിൽക്കുടുതൽ വിസ്തീർണ്ണമുള്ള വസ്തുക്കളാകെ ആർക്കുംതന്നെയില്ല. പുഞ്ചപ്പാടങ്ങൾകാണും. ഇങ്ങിനെയിരിക്കെ മേലാൽ കരക്കുടിശ്ശികക്കുള്ള ലേലപ്പരസ്യങ്ങൾ ഒന്നും ഗസറിൽ ചേർക്കേണ്ടയാവശ്യമില്ലെന്നാവരും. ഇപ്പോൾതന്നെ വസ്തുക്കൾ ലേലത്തിനുവരുമ്പോൾ കരക്കുടിശ്ശിക കെട്ടിവയ്ക്കുന്നവരിൽ അധികവും ആ വസ്തുക്കളുടെ ഈടിന്മേൽ പണം കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളവരാണ്. അതിനായിട്ടാണ് അധികമാളുകൾ ഇപ്പോൾ ഗസറുതന്നെ വരുത്തുന്നതു്. ഈ ആവശ്യമില്ലെങ്കിൽ മേലാൽ ഗസറുവരുത്താൻ ആളുകൾ ചുരുങ്ങും. അതും ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു നഷ്ടമാകും.

ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും അനുഭവിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള മറെറാരു വ്യയസ്സംനീകരണവിദ്യ ഒന്നു, ൦ ൦ ൦ രൂപയോളം ചെലവുചെയ്തു നിർമ്മിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ക്ഷേത്രപ്രവേശനക്കമ്മിറിറിപ്പോർട്ടിന്റെ പ്രതികൾ ജനപ്രതിനിധികളായ ഈ സഭയിലെ അംഗൾക്കു കൊടുക്കേണ്ടാ എന്നുവച്ചതാണ്.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): ഈ സഭയിലെ അംഗങ്ങൾക്കു സിവിൽലിസ്റ്റ് കിട്ടുന്നുണ്ടോ?

MR. M. N. NAIR (*Kottayam I*): അതുമില്ല. അതാണ് മറെറാരു വ്യയസ്സംനീകരണം. ഇതിന്റെ ഒക്കെ ഫലമെന്താണ്? ക്ഷേത്രപ്രവേശനക്കമ്മിറിറിപ്പോർട്ട് കാണാതെതന്നെ പത്രങ്ങളും മറ്റും കമ്മറി അംഗങ്ങളേയും ഗവണ്മെൻറിനേയും കുറപ്പെടുത്തുന്നു എന്നുള്ളതു തന്നെ. ഈവക ലാഭങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്ന ഗവണ്മെൻറ് വമ്പിച്ച ശമ്പള

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മുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ മുറയ്ക്കു മുറയ്ക്കു നിയമിക്കുന്നതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഇന്നലെ എന്റെ പല സ്നേഹിതരും പറഞ്ഞുകഴിഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നതിനാൽ അതെപ്പറ്റി ക്കൂടുതലായി ഒന്നും പറയുന്നില്ല. ഒരു കാര്യംമാത്രം പറയാം. തിരുവിതാംകൂറുകാരായി ഇവിടെ ഇന്നുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരിൽ പലരും പുറമേയുള്ള രാജ്യങ്ങളിൽ ഉദ്യോഗത്തിലിരുന്നപ്പോൾ അവർക്കും ഇന്നുള്ളതിൽ വളരെ കൂടുതൽ ശമ്പളം കിട്ടുമായിരുന്നു. അതിനാൽ വിഷമംപിടിച്ചതായ ശമ്പളം കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ഒരു വഴി നാട്ടുകാരെത്തന്നെ ഇവിടത്തെ സർവ്വീസിൽ നിയമിക്കുക എന്നതാണ്. പുറത്തു നിന്നും ആളെടുക്കേണ്ടിവന്നാൽത്തന്നെ ആ ജോലിക്കു കൊള്ളാവുന്ന തിരുവിതാംകൂർകാർ പുറത്തുണ്ടോ എന്നാദ്യം നോക്കണം.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Your time is up

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Changanachery cum Peermade*) : സർ, തങ്ങളുടെ കുട്ടികൾക്കു ശരിയായ ആഹാരംകൊടുക്കാതെ കഠിനമായി പ്രയത്നിപ്പിച്ചും എടുക്കാവുന്നതിലധികം ഭാരം വഹിപ്പിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു സ്വയമായി ഊണുംകഴിഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്ന അച്ഛന്മാരേയും അമ്മയുടേയും അവസ്ഥയാകുന്നു ഞാൻ ഈ ബഡ്ജറ്റുകൊണ്ടു കാണുന്നതു്. ഈ നാടു മുടിഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നപക്ഷം ഈ കുട്ടികൾ ജോലിചെയ്യാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാതെ ടെവിൽ മരിച്ചുപോകുമെന്നുള്ള സ്ഥിതി ഈ മാതാപിതാക്കന്മാർ അറിയുന്നില്ല. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ധനസ്ഥിതി ആശാസ്യമായിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നാണ് ഫൈനാൻഷ്യൽസെക്രട്ടറിയുടെ അഭിപ്രായം. എന്നാൽ സാമ്പത്തികവൈഷമ്യം വളരെ ദുഃഖവും ഉൽക്കണ്ഠയും ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നു എന്നുംകൂടി അദ്ദേഹം തന്റെ പ്രസംഗത്തിന്റെ ഒടുവിൽ സമ്മതിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. തിരുവിതാംകൂർ മഹാരാജാവിന്റെ വാത്സല്യഭാജനങ്ങളായ പ്രജകളെ—കഴുതകൾക്കു തുല്യമായ ഈ ജനങ്ങളെ—തെ ഭാഗ്യത്തിൽ പിടിച്ചുകെട്ടി അവർക്കു യാതൊരു സംരക്ഷണവും നൽകാതെ അതിനുമുമ്പിൽകയറി ഇരുന്നു സുഖിച്ചുകൊള്ളാമെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ആ വണ്ടിയിൽ മലയിലോ പോകുമ്പോൾ ആ വാഹനം കയറിൽവിണ്ടു് അതിനകത്തുള്ളവർക്കുടി ആപത്തിൽ അകപ്പെടുമെന്നു യഥാർത്ഥിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ബംഗാൾ ഗവർണ്മെന്റ്, ഒരിക്കൽ ഉത്തരേന്ത്യയിൽ സാമ്പത്തികാധഃപതനംകൊണ്ടാണ് 'terrorism' എന്ന ദയനീയാവസ്ഥ ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കുന്നതെന്നു പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ തെ പൊലീസുകമ്മീഷണർ ഈ സഭയിൽത്തന്നെ ഒരിക്കൽ ഇവിടത്തെ സാമ്പത്തികാധഃപതനത്തിന്റെ ശക്തികൊണ്ട് തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ കമ്മ്യൂ

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[MR. R. Raman Pillai.]

ങ്ങളും കവച്ചുകളും വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നുവെന്നും അതിനെ അമർച്ചചെയ്യുവാൻ പൊലീസുസൈന്യത്തിൽ കൂടുതൽ ആളുകളെ ചേർക്കണമെന്നും പ്രസ്താവിച്ചതായി ഞാൻ ഓർമ്മിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ഈവിധത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറ് രാജ്യഭരണം നടത്തിക്കൊണ്ടു പോകുകയാണെങ്കിൽ തീച്ചയായും പതിനായിരത്തിൽ കൂടുതൽ ലാത്തികളെ അന്യരാജ്യത്തുനിന്നും വരുത്തേണ്ടതായി ഗവണ്മെൻറിനുണ്ടാകുന്നതാണ്. അല്ലെങ്കിൽ നമ്മുടെ വനങ്ങളിൽപ്പോയ്കാ അന്വേഷണംനടത്തി അവകളെ ശേഖരിക്കുന്നതിനായി ഒരു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനെ നിയമിക്കേണ്ടതായിട്ടെങ്കിലും വരും. ഈ നാട്ടിലെസ്ഥിതിഗതികളെപ്പറ്റി അറിഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നവർ ഇപ്രകാരം അനങ്ങാതിരിക്കുമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല.

ദിവാൻ സർ. പി. രാജഗോപാലാചാരി അവർകൾപോലും മണ്ടനാണെന്നു കാണിക്കത്തക്കവിധം അന്നദ്ദേഹം തീരുമാനിച്ചതും ഏപ്പെട്ടത്തിയതും എല്ലാം ഇന്നു മാറ്റീട്ടുണ്ട്. എനിക്കങ്ങനെ തോന്നുന്നില്ല. അദ്ദേഹം ഒരു ബുദ്ധിമാനായ ദിവാൻജിയായിരുന്നു എന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം.

സമ്പാദിയായിരുന്ന ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ കാലംകഴിഞ്ഞു; സമ്പന്നനായിരുന്ന ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ കാലവും കഴിഞ്ഞു; വിറുതിന്നുന്ന ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ കാലമാണിതെന്നു തോന്നിപ്പോകുന്നു. ഒരു നിശ്ചിതകാര്യത്തിലേക്കായി ഉദ്ദേശിച്ച് ഏർപ്പെട്ടത്തിയിട്ടുള്ള സിങ്കിംഗ് ഫണ്ട് വേറൊരുകാര്യത്തിനായി വിനിയോഗിക്കുവാൻ തുനിയുന്നു. വാസ്തവത്തിൽ അതു ഭോഷത്വത്തിന്റെ ലക്ഷണമാണെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. ഈ സമ്പത്തികാധഃപതനകാലത്ത് ആ തുകയത്രയും ട്രസ്റ്റുജാമ്യബാങ്കിൽ നിക്ഷേപിച്ചു കുറഞ്ഞപലിശയ്ക്കു ജനങ്ങൾക്കു കൊടുക്കുവാൻ ഏർപ്പാടുചെയ്യുകയായിരുന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറു ചെയ്യേണ്ടിയിരുന്നത്. ബഹുലാഭകരമായി കരുതിവരുന്ന ഹൈഡ്രോ ഏലക്ട്രിസിറ്റി സ്കീമിലേക്ക് ആ പണം ചിലവഴിക്കാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു നന്നാണെന്നു ചിലമെമ്പറന്മാർ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. തങ്ങളുടെ മക്കളെ കൊന്നിട്ട് എന്തിനാണെ അവക്കുവേണ്ടി മാതാപിതാക്കന്മാർ പുതിയപുതിയ സ്വത്തുക്കൾ സമ്പാദിക്കുന്നത്. മുമ്പു നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള കർമ്മത്തെ കൊട്ടക്കാൻ വിഷമിക്കുമ്പോൾ കൂടുതൽ കരം ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടണം. തീപ്പെട്ടിക്കു കരം, ബീഡിക്കു കരം. നമ്മുടെ ഭരണയന്ത്രം എണ്ണക്കുരുക്കളിൽനിന്നും എണ്ണ ഊറ്റിയെടുക്കുന്ന ഒരു ചക്കുപോലെ ജനങ്ങളുടെപക്കൽനിന്നും ഞെക്കി

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എടുക്കാവുന്നിടത്തോളം കരം വസൂൽചെയ്യുവാൻ ശ്രമിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുകയാണ്. ഒരു പോലീസുകമ്മീഷണർക്കുപകരം മൂന്നു പോലീസു കമ്മീഷണരാണ് ഇപ്പോൾ നമുക്കുള്ളതു്. ഒരു ദിവാൻജിക്കുപകരം രണ്ടു ദിവാൻജി ഇപ്പോഴുണ്ടു്. അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ഒരു പ്രൈവറ്റുസെക്രട്ടറിക്കുപകരം രണ്ടുപേർഉണ്ടു്. എന്തിനാണിവക്കെല്ലാം ഇത്രവളരെ ശമ്പളംകൊടുക്കുന്നതു്. ഇരട്ടിയും മൂന്നിരട്ടിയും ശമ്പളം ഇപ്പോൾ ചില ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്കു കൊടുത്തുവരുന്നുണ്ടു്. എഡ്യൂക്കേഷൻ ഡയറക്ടർ പോരാ ഒരു പേഴ്സനൽ അസിസ്റ്റൻറും ഒരു മാനേജരുംകൂടെ അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു കൊടുത്തിരിക്കുന്നു. എന്നിട്ടും ഒരു ഡിപ്യൂട്ടിഡയറക്ടറെക്കൂടി കൊടുക്കണമേ എന്നു എന്റെ സ്നേഹിതന്മാർ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ പ്രാണദോഷിക്കുന്നു. പൊലീസുകമ്മീഷണരും എഡ്യൂക്കേഷൻഡയറക്ടറും അവരുടെ ശമ്പളത്തിനു തക്കവണ്ണം വേലചെയ്യണം. രണ്ടിലധികം ഡയറക്ടർമാർക്കുള്ള ശമ്പളമാണ് ഇപ്പോൾ കൊടുക്കുന്നതു്. അതിനു തക്കവണ്ണം അവർ ജോലിചെയ്യണം. കായ്ക്ഷമമായി ജോലി ചെയ്യുന്നതിനുള്ള പ്രാപ്തിക്കുതക്കതാണല്ലോ ശമ്പളം. അതിനാൽ പേർസനൽഅസിസ്റ്റൻറും ഡിപ്യൂട്ടിഡയറക്ടറും ക്രൂടാതെതന്നെ അദ്ദേഹം സംഗതികൾ നടത്തണം. ഡർബാർഫിസിഷ്യനെ ഞാൻ അഭിനന്ദിക്കുന്നു. അദ്ദേഹം വന്ന ഉടനെ എനിക്കു ഞാൻതന്നെ മതി സഹായിക്കാൻ ആരുംവേണ്ട എന്നു നിശ്ചയിച്ചു. വളരെ ചെറുപ്പമാണദ്ദേഹം. ഇതുപോലെ ശേഷിയുള്ളവരെത്തന്നെ നിയമിക്കണം.

എഡ്യൂക്കേഷൻ ഡിപ്യൂട്ടിഡയറക്ടറുദ്യോഗം നിർത്തൽചെയ്യണമെന്നു കാണുന്നു. അതുപോലെ ഡിപ്യൂട്ടിഡർബാർഫിസിഷ്യൻസിനേയും നിറുത്തൽചെയ്യണമെന്നുപറയുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ഈ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾക്കുള്ള തുക മുഴുവനും ബഡ്ജറിൽ ചേർത്തുകാണുന്നുണ്ടു്.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): വേറെ ഒരു correction slip കൂടി അയച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Changanachery cum Peermade II*). ഭാഗ്യദോഷത്താൽ അതെനിക്കു കിട്ടീട്ടില്ല.

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam II*): Sir, the other day the Financial Secretary was very boldly and proudly proclaiming to us that the financial condition of Travancore was unquestionably sound. He is our best financier but he has no control over the finances of the State. Our Financial Secretary is growing wiser but whether his experience with the people of the country and the proceedings of the two Chambers and the Press weighed with him is doubtful. He has unconsciously made the statement that the economic condition and the

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[Mr. A. Easwara Pillai.]

indebtedness of the country is great. Sir, the agricultural indebtedness of the country is great. Our country is drifting rapidly into poverty and indebtedness. Though our Government are aware of the fact from the reports of the several committees, we do not find any remission to relieve the agriculturists from their distress.

A word about the Medical Department. The medical institution of our State is far from satisfactory. Sir, we have the best hospitals in our State. We have *vaidyans* and *vaidyasalas*, recognised and unrecognised institutions in the State. The General Hospital, the Women and Children's Hospital and the Ayurvedic Hospital in the Capital are housed conveniently in beautiful buildings; and we have specialists, the Nose Specialist, the Eye Specialist and many other specialists. The Surgeons are many. Yet the work is not at all satisfactory. Sir, I may, in this connection, refer to two medical institutions in South Travancore, the Salvation Army Hospital at Nagercoil managed by Dr. Noble and the London Mission Hospital at Neyyoor managed by Dr. Somerwell. Sir, I am surprised to find that these two hospitals are thriving very well. They conduct more operations than all the hospitals of our State put together. They cure more diseases and treat more persons than our doctors and our specialists.

Sir, one word about the Agricultural and Fisheries and Industries Departments. They are also not working satisfactorily. The experts serve merely as ornaments to the State. Those experts in the department sleep after a heavy repast in their capital couches. They do not care whether the people prosper or not. Sir, I say that, if they cared a bit, they could have worked wonders and blessed this narrow strip of *Srivazhuncode* with peace and plenty and be blessed.

One word about the Public Works Department. I am surprised to find that in the Public Works Budget for South Travancore comparatively a small allotment is made this year, and I do not know how the Executive Engineers of our Division will cope with the situation.

A word about taxation and I have done. Sir, the attitude of Government towards taxation seems to be not commendable. We cry for reduction in taxation, but Government propose to open more toll gates all over Travancore, and it seems to me that Government want to crush the agriculturists out of existence. Sir, I wish to enter my emphatic protest against the attitude of Government in introducing new toll gates in South Travancore. We had no notice of this sudden venture for taxation. The Finance Committee, I understand, was not consulted. The people were not intimated. We had no notification in the Gazette also. I wish that these new toll gates will be abolished.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: If the speeches are short, more people will be able to speak.

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MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*): Sir, I have gone through most of the speeches delivered by the Financial Secretary, during the past dozen years and more in presenting the annual budget; but I am sorry to say, Sir, that the speeches follow the same pattern and consist of the re-arrangement of arithmetical figures rather than the enunciation of any financial or economic policy. And the present financial statement is no exception. The Financial Secretary was at pains to convince the House that we are having a surplus, and that our financial position is unquestionably sound; but we have seen that during the many years past the reserve fund which has been maintained to meet any possible emegency has been undergoing a steady diminution. This reminds me of the old story of slaying the goose that lay the golden egg. Some years ago the Government was able to realise large sums in the shape of *taravila* on land, the sale of timber and the collection of import and export duties. But these sources have failed, and I fear that they are not going to yield much in future years. Further, Sir, these surpluses constitue a grave wrong to the tax-payer. It means that the Government are taking much more from the people than what they actually want for carrying on the administration of the country. As the late Mr. Gokhale used to remark in his budget speeches, a taxation, so forced as not only to maintain a budgetary equilibrium but to yield a surplus as well in a year of extraordinary depression and suffering, is against all accepted canons of finance.

It was Burke, I believe, who said that all Government is a device to take out money from the pockets of the people and distribute it among the officers. In Travancore, the Government is doing what is exactly injurious to the permanent welfare of the ryots. Our revenue is Rs. 2,32,93,000 and the expenditure on salaries, allowances and pension comes to about one crore of rupees. The people ask for irrigation channels, roads, bridges, drainage works, good drinking water and subsidies for cottage industries. But all that has been a cry in the wilderness. Take, for instance, the department of Agriculture and the department of Industries. The total expenditure on the former is Rs. 1,36,000 odd and on the latter Rs. 1,63,000. Of these, Rs. 39,000 odd and Rs. 54,000 odd are set apart for establishment. The amount that is devoted to the encouragement of agriculture and industries, as grants in-aid and subsidies, is only Rs. 1,768 and Rs. 15,000 respectively. We have been looking forward for an advanced industrial life which was being dangled before us by Governmet but the result hitherto obtained during the past twenty years is abolutely disappointing.

At present life seems to be worse than death. The bulk of His Highness' subjects go without food and clothing. Money is scarce. The towns keep up an artificial prosperity, but the country at large is in furnace of despair. The only class of people who are well-off is the officials. The pay which they draw regularly from Government is having a greater purchasing value than before. But they seem not to be alive to the suffering of the people.

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You have got only two minutes. If you have got any proposal to make, please do. We are at the fag end of the discussion.

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*): Yes, Sir, the appointment of a Standardizsation Officer is nothing more than an eye-wash. The officers have an *esprit-de-corps*; and a Secretary to Government who rose to his present position from an original clerkship is constitutionally unfit to take a bold and progressive view of reform. Why should the Government fight shy of taking the non-official element in determining such questions? Anyhow, Sir, the pruning knife must be applied. Why should the Government fight shy of our proposals? Ours is a small State. We cannot afford to pay more than Rs. 500 or Rs. 700 for the heads of our departments. I am sure that, if the matter is tackled honestly and with patriotism, large sums that are now disbursed as salaries can be considerably reduced and the amount so liberated may be utilised for works of a reproductive character in agriculture and other industries.

We have reached the bed-rock of taxation in the country. The direct and indirect taxes that have been imposed operate heavily one the masses. It is high time, therefore, Sir, that we explored the possibility of adding to our resources without imposing, at the same time, any additional burden on the land and the agriculturists. One question of supreme importance that cannot be ignored or allowed to wait any longer is the revision of our trade agreements with the British Government. The present arrangement is not only inelastic, illegal and antiquated, but highly detrimental to our resources. They tremendously affect the natural expansion of our revenues in the most legitimate direction.

MR. J. M. JOSEPH (*Nominated*): The Budget speech of the Financial Secretary ends in a note of satisfaction and assurance that the "financial position of the State is unquestionably sound". This is intended by him perhaps to give assurance to and dispel the fears of some people who seem to think that all is not well with the Travancore finance and that the State coffers are being depleted. The Budget put forward is a surplus one which is welcome. Credit balance in accounts at the end of a month or year, whether of an individual or a family or a business concern, is always taken to be a desirable and commendable thing. If that be so, I do not know why this surplus Budget should be criticised on that ground. But at the same time, I am afraid, if the Financial Secretary had brought out a deficit Budget, there will be people to cry "ho, murder, murder." So that in my opinion, Sir, this House will be a double-edged sword with reference to the Budget, cutting this way and that way.

The Budget forecasts a progressive administration. So far it is very welcome. The progressive features of the administration indicated in the Financial Secretary's Budget speech are to send a man to Calcutta for training in the compilation of statistics with a view probably

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to organise a Statistical Department, creation of a separate Irrigation Department, development of Sugar Industry, establishment of a Rubber Factory and increased allotmeut for the amelioration of the depressed class people. These, in my opinion, are encouraging features in the Budget.

There are also things which are defective in the Budget. I may ask what the Government propose to do for sanitation especially in the villages. Has that problem been tackled? What about the question of supply of good drinking water which has times without number been brought to the notice of this Assembly? It is necessary that Government should show some tangible interest in this direction. Sir, I do not wish to refer to the question of substantial relief to the suffering agriculturists which has been urged upon the attention of the Government by almost every member. If I do so, I shall only present the sorry spectable of flogging a dead horse. But I come to the question of the wants of Nanjinad from where I come. One of the needs in that part of the country, Nanjinad, is the want of marketing facilities for their commodities. The Economic Enquiry Committee pointed out that by way of giving facilities the transport rates must be made cheaper and it has also suggested that the way to do it is to extend the Railway line from Trivandrum to Nagercoil and if possible to the eastern frontier. Now the transport rate works at As. 8 per ton—a mile by carts and As. 6 by bus. If it is on railway line it works out at only one anna so much so that if the railway line is extended as I said, from Trivandrum, to Nagercoil, and if possible to the eastern frontier, it will bring some profit to the people living in Nanjinad. If Government pleads inability to meet this demand financially for want of funds, I would suggest that a debenture loan be floated for that purpose and the capital lying idle here and there, will I believe, be forthcoming. I bring this fact to the earnest attention of the Government and request them to carry out this railway extension to the profit of the people.

My second point is about the allotment of grant-in-aid to the aided educational institutions by the Government. From the Budget I find that Rs 12,000 is provided for the grant-in-aid institutions. Last year also the same was the same figure.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Is it Rs. 12,000 or Rs. 12 lakhs?

MR. J. M. JOSEPH (*Nominated*): Rs 12 thousand for the Boys' English Schools. Either the Travancore Government is at a stand-still or the sohools are at a stand-still. So far as this grant is concerned the Travancore Government is not at all progressive. I earnestly plead for more liberal grants being given to these aided institutions. Proper check and control may be exercised upon these private institutions. I have no objection. So long as it is reasonable and in keeping with the perestige of these institutions and so long as it takes the form of advice and guidance, it is quite welcome.

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[Mr. J. M. Joseph]

Then there is another matter which I wish to bring to the notice of the Government. In these days of great economic depression, poor teachers who work in the private institutions are compelled by Government to retire at the age of 55. The Managers of Schools are willing to retain them. Without showing any consideration for the efficiency or health of these teachers, the rules governing the question of retirement are applied against them very rigorously. Teachers who are working efficiently and who are up to the mark in their work are forced to retire from service. There is great heart-burning on account of this. I would bring this matter to the pointed attention of the Director of Public Instruction, who has shown so great sympathy and solicitude for the private institutions, by recommending a grant up to 75 per cent of the deficit. If that is so, here is a matter that deserves his attention. Once more I say there is a good deal of heart-burning in the country about this. In the case of Government teachers they have got pensions. It may be asked whether these private school teachers have not got provident Fund. Yes, but it may come to at the most Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 4,000. If he has got three daughters the whole money will be spent in their marriage as dowry, etc. But in the case of pension it will last long, or at least so long as the man lives. I bring this matter to the earnest attention of the Government.

I have to say one thing more There are villages in South Travancore which are in urgent need of good drinking water. This was pointed out even in the last session. But I find that no adequate provision has been made even in the next year's Budget to meet this need in South Travancore. On sanitation I do not speak. What is the sanitary condition of the villages especially in Nanjinad and what steps have Government taken to meet this need?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: In case speeches are finished in five minutes I am prepared to allow three more people to speak. I would now call upon Mr. Sankaran to make his speech.

MR. K. SANKARAN (*Karthikapalli I*): Sir, the Budget, as has been said by several members, is not a novel one. It is of the old stereotyped method. From several departments certain amount of income is derived and for certain others the amounts that come to the treasury are expended. But the sad feature of the Budget is that, as was anticipated by some of us, Government have not declared any definite policy which they intend to pursue in the coming year. The two aspects which are outstanding and which would draw the attention of any member who takes a keen interest in the administration of the country are the prevailing economic depression and the acute unemployment. Unemployment can be divided into two classes, one among the uneducated sections and the other among the educated sections of the people. It cannot be denied that there is a lot of unemployment

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among the educated classes. There are a good many Colleges and High Schools in our State. Year after year they are turning out a lot of graduates and undergraduates. But the scope for employment or for absorbing an appreciable number of them into our services is very limited. That is a matter which the Government should take into consideration. The fact that a good lot of our young men who are turned out of Colleges are without any employment is a very serious matter which should engage the earnest attention of the Government. They have absolutely no means to pull on with their lives. That is the root cause of all the unrest and political troubles that we see today. Until the Government are in a position to arrive at a satisfactory solution of this problem or until these people are given some work, they will be creating trouble. That is no fault of theirs. They cannot be expected to remain idle.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know from the member whether he is of the opininon that all the political and social troubles are due to the unemployment of these young men ?

MR. K. SANKARAN (*Kartikapalli I*): My own impression is that one of the most important reasons for all the political, social and economic troubles in the country is the want of employment among the educated section of our population.

Another point to which I want to draw the attention of the Government is that there is an attempt in some official quarters to get the retirement age extended. Those people who get into service want to stick on there as long as they can. That is a very sad spectacle. Government have already fixed the retirement age.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Is there any basis for the member's statement? Is the member prepared to make himself responsible for the statement ?

MR. K. SANKARAN (*Kartikapalli I*): My own impression is that ; and I have read it in some papers that a Government servant has actually applied to Government to get his retirement age extended. It is on that that I base my statement. I do not say that Government have passed any orders on that. It will really be a sad feature if that attempt succeeds.

Then, the question about the unemployment among the uneducated is also a matter that has to be taken into consideration. The Financial Secretary says that under P. W. D. a greater amount has been set apart for the coming year than in the previous years. My own view upon the matter is that, even though the total amount allotted under the P. W. D. comes to Rs. 60 lakhs and odd, the major portion of that amount is to be spent on the Pallivasal Hydro-Electric Scheme, Rubber Factory and some other capital works. These capital works cannot give employment to the people living in different parts of the country. My suggestion is that if some capital works such as the opening of the Quilon-Ernakulam and the Trivandrum-Nagarcoil railway lines are started, the people of all parts of the country may get some sort of employment.

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[Mr. K. Sankaran.]

And unless these two questions are dealt with by the Government, there is no scope for the salvation of the people of this country.

Another point on which I wish to make an observation is the prevailing economic depression which almost all the members have dealt with. My own observation about that is that any amount of remission cannot be adequate to relieve the sufferings of the people of the country. My suggestion is that some committee, like that appointed by the Mysore Government, must be appointed to make a thorough investigation into the needs of the suffering ryots of the country and to suggest effective and radical measures by which the grievances of the ryots may be reduced.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Ten minutes more will be available, and with the leave of the House, I may mention that in conformity with Parliamentary practice the youngest member, so to speak, may be allowed an opportunity—I mean Mr. Thiraviam Nadar. Before I call upon Mr. Nadar, I may request Mr. Madhavan Pillai or Mr. Narayana Pillai, who both belong to the same party, to speak, not that all the members of the party are not entitled to speak. They may agree among themselves and one of them may speak.

MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Todupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): These are not party questions.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I know that; but to be fair, I want to give an opportunity to one of you. Any gentleman may come forward.

MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Todupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): Sir, the Financial Secretary has as usual presented a budget which for the time being is called surplus. Whether it is surplus or deficit, it remains to be seen only after 12 months. Whatever that be, I am not concerned with surplus or deficit, but whether Government would run or not. But I am sure that the Government is sure to run on the present lines so long as the present officers exist. I want to say only a few words on one particular point which another member has already referred to and disposed off as belonging to North Travancore. I mean, Sir, the cardamom estates and the additional taxation that is going to be placed on the cardamom estate owners. It may be noted that many of the cardamom estate owners belong to British India and not to Travancore. There are also so many Travancoreans who are cardamom estate owners and it would be an additional burden on them if such taxation is placed on them. The present state of affairs does not warrant any additional taxation. Further in the Kanni *Elam* tract there are a lot of acres of surveyed lands which, somehow or other, the Conservator does not agree to dispose of. That is to say a large area surveyed some years ago were cultivated by cardamom ryots under *Kuttagapattom* tenure given to the Todupuzha people. The Conservator says that only those portions which have been occupied long ago and which are now not occupied by the Cardamom ryots could be given for *Kuttagapattom* for 20 years and that at the rate of 4 rupees per acre. Now, if all these

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surveyed lands in the Kanni *Elam* tract are leased out to the land-holders and others there, it is a source of decent revenue to Government and it is an income to the public also. I know, somehow or other, the Forest Department are not willing to part with the Kanni *Elam* lands. The general complaint is that they do not know how to realise the dues from the *Kudiyans*, who have no permanent right over the land and hence the lands cannot be proceeded with under the Revenue Recovery Regulation. It is only a *Kuthagapattom* arrangement and they give an agreement to Government. If they do not pay their *Kuthagapattom* in time, it is very difficult for the department to realise the dues. They have to go to the Civil Court or to some other officer to realise the dues so much so the Forest people find it extremely difficult to give the lands on *Kuthagapattom*. But they have to be given to the public and some method of easy collection of the revenue has to be found out if that is the difficulty. There is another thing in the Financial Secretary's speech. He expects a capital revenue of Rs. 1 lakh by disposing of Government lands next year. Government are considering perhaps the disposal of Mannan Kandam. As Mr. Parameswara Aiyar has pointed out, this is not the time to dispose of Government lands and naturally there are talks also recently that the Mannan Kandom is set apart for high officials and influential people. If that is so, I have absolutely no objection ; the land may be disposed of even now. I understand that they are to be sold to certain officers.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Is not the member attributing motives?

MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Todupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): No; certainly not; I said so, because they are the only people who have money now.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I am asking Mr. Narayana Pillai whether he is attributing a wrong motive to the officers.

MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Todupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): Not at all; far be it from me, Sir. What I meant was, they are the people who have got money now so that they can purchase.

There is one other point which I want to bring to the notice of Government and that is the development of a sanatorium in Devicolam taluk. I have sent in interpellations and resolutions some time ago about that, but somehow or other they do not come forward. My point is this. There are something like 25,000 acres of land in the Devicolam taluk, between a height of 3,500 and 7,500 feet and this land, so far as I know, is suitable for being converted into a sanatorium.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): Is not Muttukuzhi a better sanatorium?

MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Todupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): That question does not arise, Sir.

Most of the members on this side of the House and almost all the members on the other side might have visited Devicolam and it must have been visited also by almost all circuiting officers, so much so the climate of the place is well known to all. My point is that a small sum,

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[Mr. K. A. Narayana Pillai.]

if such a contingency arises, may be spent and a competent officer may be deputed to investigate whether that place could be developed into a sanatorium or not.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Tiraviam Nadar will now speak.

MR. S. TIRAVIAM NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): Sir, before commenting upon the statement of the Financial Secretary, I shall mention what ought to be the Financial Secretary's speech' The Financial Secretary's speech ought to be a statement in the Assembly showing the material resources ——

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I do not think you will be in order, if you say what the Financial Secretary's speech ought to be. You are at liberty to make proposals. You are to concern yourself with the facts and arguments contained in the Financial Secretary's speech and not to tell how speeches are to be prepared.

MR. S. TIRAVIAM NADAR (*Agastisvaram*) By saying what his 'speech ought to be,' I mean what his proposals ought to be.

I should give an account of the receipts and expenditure of the year and suggest means as to how these receipts and expenditure ought to be met with. For example, so far as receipts are concerned, it ought to give whether these receipts ought to be increased or ought not to be increased and whether they can be increased or they cannot be increased. With regard to public expenditure, it can be classified under different heads; such as whether the expenditure is normal or abnormal, whether a particular expenditure can be avoided or cannot be avoided, or whether a particular expenditure is desirable or is not desirable. Under these various heads, the public expenditure of the State can be classified; and so far as the material resources of the country are concerned, whether these resources can be increased by additional means and by provision of additional grants in the Budget. By resources I mean nation-building resources.

Then coming to the Financial Secretary's statement itself, I find no considerable grants provided for nation-building purposes, but I only said 'no considerable.' Considerable provisions are not made probably because the Financial Secretary thought that the means that the Government has at its disposal cannot be sufficient for undertaking these progressive policies by Government.

With regard to public expenditure, as I said, they may be classified in the first instance into abnormal expenditure and normal expenditure. Examples of abnormal expenditure are those incurred in connection with the Pallikettu and the Viceroy's Visit.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I do not think you are in order.

MR. S. TIRAVIAM NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): I only quote examples.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You proceed with the other aspects of the Financial Secretary's speech.

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MR. S. TIRAVIAM NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): Whether they can be called abnormal or not——

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: If you have got any other point, you may develop that.

MR. S. TIRAVIAM NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): That is a point on which I would speak.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I do not allow you to do so.

MR. S. TIRAVIAM NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): Then coming to the avoidable and unavoidable expenditure, I may say, all the temporary offices and all temporary staff may be abolished and as a tentative measure the State can work without these temporary staffs. For example, the temporary Munsiffs' posts may be abolished. I see many of the Munsiffs sitting quiet without doing any work. They come at 12 o' clock and go out at 3 o' clock. The posts of temporary additional second judges may also be abolished. In some of the places, for example, Nagercoil, it is 2 months since there is no District Judge and nobody has yet come.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): May I know whether the member is aware of the recommendations of the Law's Delays Commissioner in regard to the establishment of more courts.

MR. S. TIRAVIAM NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): I am aware of that.

Then coming to Temporary Sirkar Vakils' posts, they may also be abolished. There are only 70 or 80 Government cases and these cases are handled by the Sirkar Vakils. I may even suggest that all the Sirkar Vakils' posts may be abolished and Government cases may be conducted by engaging private vakils.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know from the member whether he is aware that even now members of the Bar other than Sirkar Vakils are employed to conduct Sirkar cases?

MR. S. TIRAVIAM NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): I am aware. All the cases may be done so. It may avoid so much expenditure and so much waste of money collected from the taxpayers.

Secondly, I may suggest that the Sanskrit College may be abolished. Education, according to a learned writer, ought to be a continuation of a reproductive process. Sanskrit is understood by certain sets of people which, in the light of the learned author, cannot give any reproductive process to any body in the world or in any State.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Has the learned member studied Sanskrit?

MR. S. TIRAVIAM NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): Whether I have studied or not is not the point. It is a dead language which is of no use anywhere in the world.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): May I ask the member whether the study of Sanskrit will not develop knowledge of Ayurveda?

MR. S. TIRAVIAM NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): It may or may not develop.

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MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): If it develops knowledge of Ayurveda, is it not reproductive study and, as such, real education?

MR. S. TIRAVIAM NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): For that purpose, so much outlay of money is unjustifiable. Public money need not be spent for that purpose. Sanskrit College and its staff merely form a machinery to prevent the Sanskrit language from being swept off from the face of the earth.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Does the member want the Sanskrit language to be swept off from the face of the earth?

MR. S. TIRAVIAM NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): My point is that the expenditure of a large amount of public money is not necessary for this purpose.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, I shall first thank the Honorable members for their valuable criticisms and suggestions on the budget. Several points relating to the various departments of the State service have been touched upon in the course of the general discussion. But unfortunately, there is hardly time for me to dwell on all of them.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: As for that, I may tell the Financial Secretary that the Chair is prepared to give him all legitimate indulgence. (*Laughter.*)

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): In regard to specific criticisms against the working of particular departments, the Heads of the Departments concerned will reply at the time of the voting of the demands for grants. I now propose to confine myself to one or two points of general importance. The most important point raised in the course of the general discussion of the budget was in regard to the utilisation, for other purposes, of the Sinking Fund created in connection with the Quilon-Shencotta Railway line.

The capital cost of the line now stands Br. Rs. 138·77 lakhs. The present contract with the S. I. R. Company will expire in 1945 and it is likely that by that time the capital cost may go up to about Rs. 145 lakhs. There seems to be a misapprehension on the part of the Honorable members that Government have finally given up the idea of purchasing the line. When the Quilon-Shencotta line was opened in 1902, Government were under the impression that they were not legally liable to purchase the line. Their idea at that time was that their obligation in the matter was only to guarantee the interest on the capital outlay.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Is not that guaranteed interest to be paid to the debenture holders in England?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The guaranteed interest is payable to the debenture holders in respect

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of the debentures raised for the construction of the line and to the Secretary of State for India in respect of the advances made by him from time to time.

MR. A. S DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): What is the rate of interest?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The capital provided by the Secretary of State for India carries interest at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. while the interest on the debentures varies from time to time. At present it is 3 per cent. The advances made by the Secretary of State towards the discharge of the debentures carry interest at $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): My question was whether the debenture holders were not in England?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The debenture holders are all in the United Kingdom.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know the amount carrying interest at $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., the amount carrying 3 per cent. and the amount carrying $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The capital provided by the Secretary of State for India amounts to Br. Rs. 83·39 lakhs and on this sum interest is payable at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The subsisting debentures amounting to £ 2,87,126 carry interest at 3 per cent. Two sums of £49,149 and £29,517 which represent the advances made by the Secretary of State towards the discharge of the debentures carry interest at $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): May I know the total of these figures?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The total comes to Rs. 138·77 lakhs. The exchange rate for purposes of calculation of interest has been fixed at 1 sh. 6 d. per rupee. The member himself can make the calculation.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Financial Secretary should stop with the figures used for the exchange ratio. He was not in order in saying that the non-official member could make the calculation himself.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): But unfortunately, I cannot make any calculation just now.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): Is there any depreciation fund?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): There is no depreciation fund and that is one of the reasons why the capital increases from year to year.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): So, am I to take it that as the value of the material diminishes the capital increases?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Unfortunately, that is the position.

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[Mr. R. Nilakanta Pillai.]

Sir, to continue what I was saying, the Quilon-Shencotta line was opened in 1902; and then the Government were under the impression that they were not under an obligation to purchase the line. Naturally therefore no Sinking Fund was created at that time. But as a result of certain correspondence which the Government had subsequently with the Agent of the S. I. R. Company, there arose a mistaken idea to the effect that the Government were legally liable to purchase the line in 1945. Consequently a Sinking Fund was created in 1912.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): Is there any record to show how the mistake arose in 1912?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The mistake arose, as I have just explained, as a result of some correspondence between the Government and the Agent of the S. I. R. Company.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): Was there any revision of the agreement in 1912?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): No. To begin again, the line was opened —

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know—

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, shall I go on answering these questions now and begin my speech after finishing them all?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The questions should be answered so far as they are relevant: and relevancy is a matter for the Chair to decide. But the Financial Secretary is bound to answer only such questions as I permit.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Finaancial Secretary to Government*): I am prepared to answer evey one of the questions.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha II*): I may be permitted to make a suggestion, Sir. If the Financial Secretary is allowed to go on with his speech, there may be no necessity to put many of these questions. The questions may therefore be reserved to the end of his speech. Let us first hear him out.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The suggestion, of course has been made in a very amicable spirit. Therefore, although technically the member was not in order in making the suggestion after I have given my ruling on the matter, I am prepared to take the suggestion into consideration. There appears to be considerable force in that suggestion. Almost all the non-official members have spoken on the Budget. Time allows only the Financial Secretary to reply from the official side. If he is questioned at every stage, it is likely to cause some inconvenience. Anyhow, for the sake of convenience, he may be allowed to finish his speech; and questions to him may be reserved till he finishes his speech.

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MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): In 1912, as a result of some correspondence between the Government and the S. I. R. Company, a mistaken impression arose that we were legally liable to repay the capital outlay on the Quilon Shencotta Railway in 1945 and a Sinking Fund was created. The Fund now stands at Rs 69·43 lakhs. Recently the mistake was disclosed, and the whole subject reviewed in the light of fresh correspondence with the Government of India. As a result, it has been established that there is no legal obligation on our part to purchase the line, although the option to do so or not rests with us. This is the present position. Government have not yet finally decided whether they should purchase the line or not. We have time enough to consider that question. If when the time comes for our option to be exercised in 1945, it is found that it is really advantageous to Government from a financial point of view to purchase the line, it will not be difficult for us to raise the necessary funds.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): Am I to take it that, as time goes on, the capital outlay necessary for the purchase of the line will increase and we will have to guarantee interest on such increased outlay?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): If the receipts from the working of the line are not sufficient to meet the interest charges on the increased outlay, we will have to make up the deficit.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): That is not my question at all. The member told us—

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Please put your question you need not explain.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): Unless I explain, Sir, my sentence would become a very involved one, and I may not be clear,

There is the initial investment on the line. The line has to be repaired periodically and maintained in good condition. The cost of repair is also being added on to the capital outlay, so that, as time advances, the capital also increases.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I think the member gave an answer. He said that the Travancore Government will have to do that only when the receipts from the Railway line are less than the expenditure. He said something to that effect.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Am I to understand that we shall have to guarantee the interest not only on the amount till now spent but also on the amount to be spent hereafter on repairs, etc?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The question of this Government having actually to make any payment on account of interest arises only when the net revenue receipts are not sufficient to meet the interest charges.

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MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): I should like to explain my question.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You have sufficiently explained your question, Mr. Thanu Pillai, and I consider that the answer given by the Financial Secretary is clear enough.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, I shall try to explain still further, the point raised by Mr. Thanu Pillai. The Capital generally bears the cost of new works, additional rolling stock, plant and machinery, etc., while Revenue bears the cost of repairs and restorations. There is thus every likelihood of the Capital increasing from year to year. That is why I said that it is likely that the Capital cost of the line may go up to Rs. 145 lakhs by the year 1945.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): May I know the initial outlay on the line?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I do not remember the exact figure but I think the initial outlay was about Rs. 113 lakhs.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know from the member whether, as the capital outlay increases, our liability increases?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Yes. If we want to purchase the line, we will have to pay up the whole capital cost as it would then stand.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Have we not got to pay interest?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): So, if the rate of interest in England rises, we have also to pay a higher rate of interest?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Yes. That is so.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know from the member whether Government have investigated sufficiently into the matter to come to the definite conclusion that this line will be a losing concern under any circumstance?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I do not allow that question in this form. If you omit the word 'sufficiently', I shall allow it, because 'sufficiently' is a matter of opinion.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): I will substitute the word 'properly' for 'sufficiently'.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): We have the option of purchasing the line or not in 1945 according as at that time it is found to be a profitable or a losing concern.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know from the member whether there is any means by which the Government can know if it is a losing or gaining concern?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): We are trying to ascertain it.

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MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): We are not auditing the figures.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): There are other means of ascertaining whether it is really profitable to purchase the line or not.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Is there any limit beyond which the capital outlay should not go?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad II*): May I know from the member whether there is any method of escaping from the liability to pay interest?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): We have guaranteed the interest. It is not always that we have actually to make up the guaranteed interest.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know from the member whether we have to surrender the sovereignty over the land over which the line runs if we do not purchase it?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): So long as the line is worked by the S. I. R. Company, the present arrangement in respect of soverignity will continue.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): May I know from the member whether the receipits from the Quilon-Trivandrum line are being appropriated towards the payment of interest.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Yes, they are being appropriated.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): May I know the loss to the Government?

MR. R NILAKANTA HILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): During the last 5 or 6 years, they have not been making any demand.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum.Rural*): May I know what the loss to our Government is on account of the outlay on the Quilon-Trivandrum line at a reasonable rate of interest?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Reckoning 4 per cent. interest on the outlay on the old Quilon-Trivandrum line, the annual loss to Government is a little over Rs. 2 lakhs.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): What is the outlay?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): It is about Br. Rs. 54 lakhs.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): What is it that we get?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): For the first half year of 1933, we got about Rs. 6,000 and odd.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Do we take the Quilon-Trivandrum line under a separate agreement?

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MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): There is already an agreement in respect of the Quilon-Chakay line. As regards the extension from Chakay to Thampanur, the matter is under correspondence.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I do not allow that question because Mr. Nilakanta Pillai was just going to refer to another important matter.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): May I know the rate of interest?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: My observation with regard to Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai applies to Mr. Thanu Pillai also.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): We have spent Rs. 26 lakhs and odd. For the last half year we got Rs. 6,000.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): For the Quilon-Trivandrum line we have spent about Rs. 80 lakhs. So we are losing the interest.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): We are not at present getting full interest on this capital.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum Rural*): May I know from the member whether Government have ever considered the possibility of working this whole line by the State?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): That question could be considered at the time of the expiry of the present contract.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Has the Financial Secretary or the Government access to the Railway accounts relating to the Shencotta-Trivandrum line?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): No, we have no access.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Am I to take it that Government are depending entirely on the figures supplied by the Railway Company?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Yes, on figures supplied by the South Indian Railway Company audited and certified by the Government Examiner of Railway Accounts, S.I.R.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Have the Government considered the possibility of the State working this railway?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): It is too early now to consider that question.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): What about the Quilon-Trivandrum line?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): This line is also worked by the S. I. R. Company as part of the main line.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): There also we have no access to the accounts?

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MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : No.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : So far as the railway is concerned, we have to accept the accounts furnished by them. Is it our position?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : It is a matter of inference. So, the Chair does not allow the question.

MR. K. R. ELANKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : May I know from the member whether, if any discrepancy is brought to the notice of the Government, they will write to the Imperial Government and get the matter settled ?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : Yes.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : May I know what Government have done in the matter of the Station Master at Quilon being given only Rs. 75, while in the accounts his salary is shown as that of a First Class Station Master ?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): If the member is prepared to make a definite statement, the necessary action will be taken.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : A statement was actually made in this House some time before.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : That question has already been answered at the time.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : May I know whether Government will examine the whole question and arrive at some definite decision whereby they can save the growing loss on account of the railway ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I do not allow that question because of the word " growing " occurring there. It is a matter of opinion. If the question is put in another form, then it may be considered.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*) : I may submit that I used the word because of the admitted increase in the expenditure on account of the capital outlay and the interest we have to pay on the outlay as found from time to time. That is why I said that the loss is growing. I wanted to know whether there is any proposal before the Government to go into the whole question and arrive at some decision whereby the Government may save this growing expenditure.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : In the light of the explanation which he gives us as to the idea of the meaning of the term ' growing ' you may answer the question.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : All proposals for expenditure charged to capital on the Quilon-Shencotta line are first referred to this Government and it is only with our approval that the expenditure is actually incurred.

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MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : With regard to the second point, may I know whether our Government can disallow any item of expenditure, which, the Railway Company or the Secretary of State says, is necessary for the continuance of the line ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : The question asked is different from the question that has already arisen.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : May I know whether our Government is in a position to disallow any item of expenditure which, the Railway Company or the Secretary of State says, is necessary for the further working of the Railway ?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): If it is unnecessary, we can record our protest in the matter.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Will it have any effect ?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Yes.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : A very large number of questions on this point were allowed and answered. I think that that aspect of the matter has been sufficiently explained by the questions put and answers given. The Financial Secretary may proceed.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir,—

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : About the diversion of the Railway Sinking fund, nothing has been said.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai is not in order. It is for the Financial Secretary to Government to meet any argument which he thinks necessary to meet. A member is not at liberty to talk when another member is talking.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I am prepared to accede to the request of Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : If the Financial Secretary thinks any further argument is necessary, he is at liberty to put it forward.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The appropriation of the Sinking Fund has already been referred to in my speech introducing the budget. I had then stated that out of the sinking fund balance of Br. Rs. 69·43 lakhs, a reserve fund, amounting to Br. Rs. 59·48 lakhs had been constituted to be drawn upon in case of absolute necessity for financing the Pallivasal Hydro-Electric Scheme. This is not, however, to be taken as meaning that the reserve fund will be immediately utilised for the Pallivasal Scheme. It is only in case of extreme necessity that the reserve fund will be actually drawn upon. Meanwhile, in accordance with the suggestions made by several members of the House on previous occasions, it is proposed to finance the Pallivasal Scheme from the loan funds with the Government. Government may even go in for a public loan if a real necessity arises.

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MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know whether the Financial Secretary assures on behalf of Government that this reserve fund will not be utilised for any other purpose except for the purpose as detailed in the Budget and that only when it is absolutely necessary and when there is no other go.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*) I believe I have mentioned that specifically in my speech.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Apart from the mention in the Budget speech, may I know whether the Financial Secretary can make a definite and specific assurance on behalf of Government that this reserve fund will not be used for any other purpose ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I do not allow the Financial Secretary to answer that question ; because such an undertaking by him does not come within our purview at this stage.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : Has the Government considered the question of further extending the railway line within this State ?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Any further railway extension can be considered only after the Pallivasal Hydro-Electric Scheme is completed, because there we have a commitment to the extent of Rs. 70 lakhs. We have already commenced the work and we are bound to find funds for the same.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : May I know whether, at the time of agreement with the Secretary of State, there was a Sirkar Vakils' Department under the Government of Travancore ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That question does not arise.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : What is the exact legal position of the Travancore Government in this business ?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Government are not legally liable to purchase the Quilon-Shencotta line, although they have the option to do so.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*): Am I to take it that we would be able to purchase the line, if we want, in 1945 ?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Certainly, if we are prepared to pay.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Is there any means of destroying the railway line?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT; I certainly prohibit that quesstion being asked.

The Assembly adjourned at 5.18 P. M.

K. MADHAVA KURUP,
Secretary to the Sri Mulam Assembly.

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